FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 DECEMBER 1984

Ethiopia-Somalia

A 20 December Somali Defense Ministry statement reported that the Ethiopian "Mengistu regime and its allies" launched a "very large land and air attack" along their shared border, according to Mogadishu radio. The radio added the "aggression" resulted in a "crushing and humiliating defeat for the enemy."

Israeli Coalition Crisis

The coalition crisis has been resolved by an agreement between the Likud, the Alignment, SHAS, and the National Religious Party (NRP) to allocate the Interior Ministry to SHAS and the Religious Affairs portfolio to the NRP, Jerusalem radio announced on 20 December. The agreement came after Likud Knesset MKs had warned the Alignment that the Likud ministers would submit their resignations unless SHAS received a portfolio by 20 December, according to the radio. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the Likud leader, warned that certain ministers are seeking to dissolve the coalition, in a Jerusalem television interview. He also stated that he is "not happy" about Minister 'Ezer Weizman's meetings with Egyptian officials outside the aegis of the Foreign Ministry.

Lebanon

Negotiations — Israeli sources assume that the Israeli-Lebanese talks at Al-Naqurah on 20 December will be a "farewell session" because the Lebanese have "led the talks in circles" and Israel has therefore decided to terminate them, Jerusalem radio reported. The Israeli Government will shortly discuss a unilateral withdrawal coupled with security arrangements that will suit Israel's objectives alone and will not guarantee Lebanon's interests, the radio added. For Lebanon's part, Prime Minister Rashid Karami stressed that Lebanon cannot possibly renounce the principles which constitute the basis of its negotiating position at Al-Naqurah, adding that Lebanon demands Israel's unconditional and complete withdrawal. Karami's remarks were broadcast by Beirut radio following his meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who had earlier held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus, according to Damascus radio. Khaddam told Murphy that Syria continues to support Lebanon's efforts to expel the Israeli forces from its territory without delay, conditions, or political and military gains, Damascus radio said.

Security — The Lebanese Army's 2d Brigade deployed throughout the northern city of Tripoli on 20 December in accordance with the government's security plan, Beirut radio reported. The brigade took up appointed positions without opposition from the armed militias, who disappeared from the streets. Earlier, in a statement broadcast by the radio, Prime Minister Karami announced the Cabinet's intention to begin implementing the coastal road security plan after consultations with a Syrian military delegation. In a related development, the chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon discussed the security plan with officials in Beirut and delivered an "important" message to President Amin al-Jumayyil from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the radio noted.

Libyan Leader in Spain

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky at a private house in Mallorca, Madrid radio reported. After the meeting, Gonzalez said he had discussed bilateral relations and the international situation with Al-Qadhdhafi, the radio reported.

ICO Conference

Speaking at the ICO foreign ministers conference in Sanaa, Kuwait's foreign minister called for condemnation of terrorist groups which use Islamic names when they resort to international terror and hijacking, KUNA reported. In addition to charging Iran with aggression, Iraq's foreign minister welcomed Egypt's presence at the conference, in remarks cited by INA. The Saudi foreign minister appreciated Iraq's readiness to resolve its problems with Iran peacefully and cited "Israeli aggression" as the Arab community's most serious adversity, according to SPA. It is Egypt's goal to have the Palestinian people realize their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and their own state, Egypt's foreign minister declared in remarks described by Cairo radio.

As for Iran, its foreign minister accused the ICO of being "inactive" and completely influenced by the world powers, especially the West, IRNA reported, noting his assertion that Egypt's return to the ICO, and the resumption of diplomatic relations between Egypt and Jordan, Iraq and the United States are part of a policy to gradually remove anti-Zionist feeling among Muslims.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Any new Iranian aggression against Iraq will call forth a "violent, comprehensive" attack in which all of Iran's bases of aggression will become targets for Iraq's "superior weapons," an Iraqi military spokesman declared in a statement to INA. To retaliate against aggression and to ward off dangers, Iraq has the right to target any vital spot inside Iran, along its coast, or on the front, the statement asserted.

Kuwait-USSR

Reporting on talks between Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and Chairman of the USSR Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Voss, Defense Ministry officials cited by KUNA said that Al-Sabah praised the state of military cooperation between the two countries while Voss reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to closer ties with Kuwait. When he conferred with National

Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-Adsani, Voss repeated Moscow's call for an international conference on the Middle East crisis and advocated Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, KUNA reported. Al-'Adsani expressed the hope that the Soviet Union would reassess its attitude toward Afghanistan, the agency added. As for economic cooperation, exchange of data and expertise in oil production were emphasized, according to KUNA, but the Soviet side "left no doubt" that its production cannot be linked to the OPEC countries.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd has appointed Prince Sa'ud ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz "vice president" of the Saudi Intelligence Department, SPA reported citing an official announcement in Riyadh.

Pakistan

In "inconclusive results" on the referendum vote from 32 districts there was a 64.1 percent turnout of voters, 98.41 percent of whom answered "yes" on the ballot, Karachi radio reported.

Due to the heavy rush of voters, the polling time was extended by 1 hour, the radio claimed, although according to Delhi radio the reports from Pakistan indicated a low turnout. Opposition leaders alleged that there had been extensive vote rigging and ballot stuffing, Delhi radio added.

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Report on Al-Qadhdhafi-'Arafat Meeting Denied

LD192146 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1905 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 Dec (KUNA) — A prominent Palestinian official denied here this evening the press reports that spoke of the likelihood of a meeting between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi at Palma de Mallorca later this evening.

In an exclusive statement to KUNA, member of the PLO Executive Committee Mahmud 'Abbas described these reports as "mere speculations." 'Abbas told KUNA that the latest news pertaining to 'Arafat was the invitation addressed to him by the government of South Yemen to visit Aden on 27 December. He added that the "importance of this invitation lies in the fact that it is the first such invitation the brother southern Yemenis have addressed to Brother Abu 'Ammar in almost a year."

'Abbas also said that he will be leading a Palestinian delegation which will tour a number of socialist countries later in December.

'Arafat May Visit London, Meetings Detailed

PM190915 London THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH in English 16 Dec 84 p 4

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat Plans for London"]

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the PLO, who plans to make his first visit to London next month, is expected to met Mr Francis Pym, former foreign secretary, Mr Healey, shadow foreign Secretary, and Mr Steel, the Liberal leader. The Foreign Office has said however, that political and security implications will have to be studied before a decision is taken on whether to give him a visa.

Palestinian Source on U.S.-Palestinian Contacts

GF191430 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 18 Dec 84 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] A Palestinian official told *AL-QABAS* that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, is endeavoring to establish a direct link with the U.S. Administration because of the failure of all previous contacts to bring about fruitful results. He explained: Previous contacts have been made through Palestinian personalities close to the United States and the PLO, but not directly involved with the PLO. However, these personalities have now become members of the PLO Executive Committee and their future visits and discussions in the United States will be important to the PLO.

The Palestinian source said contacts are being made with the United States through more than one channel. He added: The most prominent personalities involved in these contacts are a group of U.S. professors of Palestinian origin whom 'Arafat has asked to negotiate, on behalf of the PLO, with the U.S. Administration. The second group of such personalities includes rich Palestinians, foremost of whom are Husayn al-Sabbagh and Yasil 'Aql who have close and strong relations with officials in the U.S. Administration, especially George Shultz.

Fedayeen Attack Israelis in West Bank

JN191741 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1623 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] In implementing the Palestinian revolution leadership's directives and decisions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland — the arena of the main conflict — our heroic revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland yesterday attacked a Zionist vehicle carrying a number of Zionist settlers and soldiers as it passed near Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. A number of Zionist settlers and soldiers were either killed or wounded and their vehicle was badly damaged by the hand grenade attack.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation but, as usual, did not mention his losses. He said that his forces immediately carried out an extensive search and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of involvement in the operation.

Indonesian Minister Reelected OPEC Chairman

JN191350 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1324 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 19 Dec (INA) — OPEC oil ministers have reelected Indonesian Energy Minister Dr Subroto as chairman of the OPEC conference. The ministers concluded a 2-hour working session during which they approved the conference's agenda. The conference will resume its work later this evening to discuss agenda items essentially dealing with production and price differentials.

OPEC Urges North Sea Producers To 'Rethink' Pricing

LD191828 Vienna OPECNA in English 1220 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 19 Dec 84 (OPECNA) — OPEC today urged North Sea oil producers "to rethink" their intention to link the price of their crudes to the spot market.

Opening the 72nd meeting of the OPEC conference here, Dr Subroto, president of the conference and Indonesian mines and energy minister, called on North Sea producers to join OPEC in the task of ensuring global economic stability, which he described as "the responsibility of all oil exporters."

He said it was regrettable that North Sea producers had deliberately indulged in pricing practices which could only adversely affect "our determined struggle to stabilize the oil market." "Those producers must realize that the effect of such price practices can only be to destabilize and very adversely affect the delicately balanced world oil price structure," he stated.

Subroto reiterated that OPEC alone could not go on bearing indefinitely the enormous costs of oil market stability in the face of "such negative practices, particularly when the North Sea producers derive much more benefit from market stability".

He warned that harmful pricing practices might lead to a collapse of the market and hurt all oil producers without exception. "OPEC, which had been on the oil market long before the North Sea emerged as a factor, and has vastly greater reserves, would surely prevail if such a development were to take place," the minister pointed out. He said it was ironical that "those same producers, especially the UK", were the most vulnerable to any eventual price collapse resulting from their own practices. "These very countries have the highest oil investment costs in the world and unprecedentedly high rates of depletion of oil reserves. Their oilfields, especially those which have been newly developed, being the most expensive in the world, can never be sustained without a reasonably stable international price structure," he emphasized.

Subroto also described the depletion of oil stocks by the industrialized countries as another major destabilizing factor, adding that recent inventory destocking could not by any stretch of the imagination be said to fall within the normal seasonal or operational patterns. "It obviously disrupts an orderly market, exerts pressure on the OPEC price structure and creates chaos in the world oil market," the OPEC conference president said. He said that such a "very heavy drawdown" would have extremely detrimental effects on market stability and the demand for OPEC, and called on the industrialized countries to terminate "this unhealthy and unhelpful destocking".

Iraqi Minister on World Oil Market Conditions

JN191346 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Geneva, 19 Dec (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi has affirmed that the current oil market crisis is due to Western countries drawing on large quantities of their oil surplus and the failure of some OPEC countries to abide by their production quotas as well as the comparatively mild winter.

In an interview with INA today, Taqi expressed the hope that the OPEC conference will maintain the current production ceiling of 16 million barrels, thereby consolidating the current price structure, and that member states will abide by their production quotas.

Regarding the ministerial committee's agreement yesterday to discuss the price differentials of light and heavy oils, the Iraqi minister said that this agreement will help narrow the price gap and stabilize the market. The Iraqi minister said that narrowing the price gap will be only a temporary solution due to the difficulty of reaching a final agreement on this subject at present as the oil market is going through exceptional circumstances. Regarding the current market surplus, Taqi said that this ranges from 500,000 to 1 million barrels a day.

UAE Oil Minister Issues Warning on Price War

GF191156 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 19 Dec 84 p 15

[Text] Geneva — United Arab Emirates Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah yesterday warned non-OPEC producers Britain and Norway will be "the first losers" in a drawn out price war if they persisted in their "irresponsible" behaviour by flooding the market with cheaper crude. "This irresponsible behaviour by non-OPEC producers, especially Britain and Norway could lead to a price war," Dr al-'Utaybah said in an interview with the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM).

The UAE minister was talking after chairing a meeting of the four-nation market monitoring committee, which recommended a freeze of OPEC's reduced production ceiling of 16 million barrels a day and a strict adherence to the organisation's resolutions on prices and individual output quotas. He said the seven-week-old ceiling, reduced by 8.5 per cent from the previous 17.5 million barrels per day level to defend OPEC's troubled base price of $29 a barrel, would remain unchanged for an "indefinite" period until a recovery in demand allows an increase. OPEC officials said this was essential for the 13-nation organisation to absorb renewed pressures on the official prices that might emerge in the spring when demand on oil goes down. Oil industry experts said prices of mostly light quality crude oils were being traded at about two dollars below official prices, but added they could increase if temperatures drop in the northern hemisphere.

An OPEC minister, who did not wish to be identified said the organisation might be forced to meet as early as next February or March to "consider an official price cut" if "we do not strictly abide by OPEC quotas and official prices." The minister said this warning was also included in a report prepared after two meetings on Monday night by OPEC's marketing experts.

Dr al-'Utaybah blamed the continued weakness in the world oil market on slower rates of economic growth in the United States and Japan, the "disappointing recovery" in Western Europe, the "abnormal" mild winter in the northern hemisphere and OPEC's inability to solve the thorny issue of price differentials. "But despite all this, non-OPEC producers increased their output by at least one million bpd during the past 12 months and plan a further increase of 600,000 bpd during the coming 12 months," Dr al-'Utaybah said bitterly.

This excessive production was being made at a time when the market was experiencing "exceptionally difficult circumstances that do not allow any increase in output," Dr al-'Utaybah said. He was apparently referring to the massive drawdown on inventories in the West estimated officially at between three to four million barrels a day in an attempt to force official prices down.

The UAE minister said these countries have "enjoyed the advantages of the fact that OPEC was committed to defend the world oil market. "But I would like to point out here that OPEC could not continue forever to shoulder alone the burdens of oil market pressures," he added.

Another factor that contributed in the present market weakness, Dr al-'Utaybah said "is our inability so far to work out a solution to the price differentials issue." He said the committee urged a "quick and just" solution that would narrow the $4.5 gap between the prices of heavy and extra light crude oils.

Conference sources said a suggestion by Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, calling for an increase of 50 cents on the price of Arabian heavy, a rise of 20 cents on the over-priced light crudes, was rejected by light crude producers. Shaykh Yamani is expected to chair a meeting of the differentials committee, which also include Dr al-'Utaybah and the Libyan oil secretary, Fawzi al-Shakshuki to prepare "a formula that would make heavy and light crudes more competitive," one source said.

OPEC sources said light crude producers such as the UAE, Libya, Nigeria and Algeria were insisting that the gap should not exceed three dollars to reflect market realities that have tended to favour cheaper heavy crudes. The committee will present its reports to the meeting starting today. Libya and Nigeria called for solving the differential issue to reduce pressure on the prices of the light crudes which went down by two dollars per barrel recently.

In a related development the managing director of Malaysian state oil company PETRONAS, Rastam Hadi, who arrived in Geneva yesterday to act as observer at the OPEC conference told reporters Malaysia would be happy to send regular observers to OPEC meetings.

KUWAIT

Further Reportage on Visit of USSR Delegation

Meet Acting Foreign Minister

LD191237 Kuwait KUNA in English 1113 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 19 (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti state minister for cabinet affairs and acting foreign minister, 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn Wednesday conferred with the visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation over a number of issues of mutual concern.

Husayn told KUNA that the talks focused on bilateral relations and means of bolstering them in various fields. He also indicated that the two parties' stands toward a number of international issues were identical. The Kuwaiti and Soviet teams supported all peace initiatives aimed at ensuring world peace and security. The meeting was attended by head of the Parliamentary Economic and Finance Committee and head of the accompanying mission of honor Jasim al-Kharafi.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation arrived here Monday night on a short visit to the country at the invitation of Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani.

Military Cooperation Praised

LD191649 Kuwait KUNA in English 1512 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 19 (KUNA) — Kuwait's defense minister Wednesday praised the state of military cooperation with the Soviet Union and underlined that the two countries' views on international issues were drawing closer together.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah told a top-level visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation that the two countries' different social and economic systems were no barrier to holding similar opinions on global affairs, Defense Ministry officials said.

Shaykh Salim also referred to the warm welcome he received when he visited the Soviet Union in July, at Wednesday's meeting with the chairman of the USSR Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Voss and an accompanying delegation. Shaykh Salim's visit culminated in the conclusion of an arms and air defense deal with the Soviet Union signed in Kuwait in August, providing for weapons purchases and training arrangements. The sources said the minister praised the state of cooperation that existed between the two countries in the military field.

Voss for his part, reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to closer ties with Kuwait, which is the only GCC state to maintain full diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, Defense Ministry sources confirmed that Shaykh Salim would visit Brazil after being invited by the country's defense minister, but said the trip had yet to be scheduled.

Voss, Al-'Adsani Discuss Issues

LD191711 Kuwait KUNA in English 1452 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 19 (KUNA) — A ranking Soviet official Wednesday reiterated Moscow's call for an international conference to resolve the Middle East crisis and said the Soviet Union was prepared to ensure all international guarantees to solve the Palestinian question.

Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities at the Supreme Soviet, Avgust Voss, who is leading a parliamentary delegation in an official visit to Kuwait, underlined his country's support for the right of the Palestinian people to statehood on their national soil. He indicated that peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, and at the same time emphasized Moscow's support for the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

In talks with Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-' Adsani, Voss regretted that the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war escalates tension in the Gulf region, heralding intervention of "imperialist force" in the area. The Soviet official said his country has called for an immediate halt of hostilities from the outset of the war "which does not only saps human and economic resources of the belligerents but also hampers Arab struggle against Israel".

The talks, attended by parliamentarians on the two sides, touched on the Afghanistan issue, with Kuwaiti deputies voicing hope that the Soviet Union would re-think its position on the question.

Voss made clear that his country stands for a peaceful settlement between Afghanistan and Pakistan through U.N.-sponsored indirect negotiations. The Soviet troops entered Afghanistan in December 1979 after Afghan President Babrak Karmal had officially sought Soviet backing in the face of what the Kabul government then described as foreign threats. The Soviet official, however, indicated that Washington did not want to settle the Afghanistan problem peacefully and sought to step up tension in the region to justify increasing American military presence in the area close to the Gulf. The U.S. has earmarked some 200 million dollars of its next year budget for backing "reactionary forces" on Afghanistan, Voss pointed out.

Kuwait's National Assembly Speaker Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani indicated that the U.S. did not want the Soviet Union to withdraw from Afghanistan as to find a pretext for American intervention in the region. [sentence as received] "We hope our friends in Moscow, who support co-existence and the right of peoples to self-determination and denounce violence, would reassess their attitude toward the Afghanistan issue, Al-'Adsani said.

Meanwhile, the Soviet and Kuwaiti sides held identical views on the need for halting arms race and for tighter control on the proliferation of strategic weapons. Al-'Adsani said the menace of the arms race was no longer confined to one particular country or continent and underlined its impact on development in the Third World. If funds now being spent on armament had been channelled to the aid of needy countries, there would have been no problems in the world, he added.

The Soviet parliamentarians said their country was ready to boost economic cooperation with Kuwait, with special emphasis laid on the exchange of data and expertise in the oil area. They, however, left no doubt that the Soviet Union's oil production cannot be linked to that of the OPEC countries.

The Soviet delegation cited the fact that their country meets the oil requirements of other socialist states and that Soviet oil output was increasing considerably each year. The Soviet Union will become the largest producer of natural gas in the world next year, they said.

Oil Tanker Company Expanding Fleet

GF191212 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 18 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] The chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers company [KOTC], 'Abd al-Fattah al-Badr, said yesterday that the company is planning to expand its fleet. He added: "It has been provisionally decided to order six new tankers to carry the products of the new refineries."

Al-Badr said that 1984 had proved "beyond doubt" the advantage of having national tankers and not depending on foreign vessels. The national fleets kept rates stable and foiled price increases by some tanker owners. "Three Kuwaiti tankers were hit this year because of Iraq-Iran war, but the vessels were repaired quickly and cheaply," he said.

Al-Badr said that insurance charges had increased more than 12-fold in eight months. Kuwaiti vessels were not insured against war risks because the total cost would be about $21 million until the end of this year. The attacks on shipping resulted in an increase in freight rates, he said. The severe recession affecting the oil tanker market caused many companies to risk their tankers and carry oil from the region at a little more than the normal rates.

KOTC was currently planning a new factory to fill gas cylinders because the capacity of the present factory was insufficient, Al-Badr said. The new factory would be "completely automatic and run by 19 employees only." It will begin operation in April 1985 and will be formally opened in June, he said.

QATAR

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Doha 18 Dec

JN191713 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1623 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Doha from Sanaa yesterday on an official visit to Qatar that will last several days. Our correspondent has learned that Abu 'Ammar will brief Qatari officials on the resolutions and recommendations of the recent PNC session in Amman. He will also discuss new developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas.

Received by Amir

GF191200 Doha QNA in Arabic 1031 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Doha, 19 Dec (QNA) — Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani received this morning Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, who is currently visiting Doha. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister; and Mr 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, Qatari minister of labor and social affairs. The meeting was also attended by Jawad al-Ghusayn and Fahd al-Qawasimah, members of the PLO Executive Committee; and Mr Yasin al-Sharif, director of the PLO office in Doha.

QNA has learned that the Palestinian leader briefed the Qatari amir on the results of the 17th PNC session held in Amman recently. The meeting also reviewed current developments in the Arab and international arenas in addition to topics of mutual interest and bilateral relations. Mr 'Arafat arrived in Doha from Sanaa last night within a tour he is making of a number of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Appoints New Intelligence Official

LD191319 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 19, SPA — A royal decree has been issued by HM King Fahd, appointing Prince Sa'ud ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, as vice-president of the Saudi Intelligence Department, it was officially announced here today.

Libyan Delegation Concludes Visit 20 Dec

LD200919 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0650 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Jeddah 20 Dec (SPA) — The Libyan delegation led by Secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport engineer Mubarak al-Shamikh today left Jeddah at the conclusion of a 1-week visit to the Kingdom. The delegation was seen off by Minister of Information 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir; Adviser at the Royal Court 'Ali ibn Musallam; Under Secretary of the Information Ministry for Information Affairs Dr Fu'ad al-Farisi; the Libyan Charge d'Affaires in the Kingdom Sulayman Badi; and a number of other officials. During its visit to the Kingdom the Libyan delegation had talks with a number of officials regarding bilateral cooperation in many fields. It also visited industrial establishments in several areas in the Kingdom.

Murphy's Arab Tour Unlikely To Succeed

LD190019 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Commentary by Husayn al-Askari]

[Text] Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern Affairs, continues his tour of a number of Arab countries and occupied Palestine in order to search quietly for a formula for an agreement on the Arab-Israeli conflict amid

pessimistic indications due to the existence of essential differences in the attitudes.

It is premature to give a precise evaluation of the results of Richard Murphy's current tour in the Arab region because his mission, so he said, is basically centered on finding a formula for an agreement which would lead to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon within the context of the talks taking place between the Lebanese Government and the Israeli enemy.

Up to now Mr Murphy has been eager to say that his mission is confined to getting to know the views of the two sides without submitting any American ideas, in order to work indirectly for narrowing them as much as possible. But it seems from the widening of the scope of the American official's tour, which until now included Arab capitals with direct connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict, that his mission was not confined to the issue of the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon; rather it went beyond searching for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

If we go back a little bit, we find that Mr Murphy's mission, which is surrounded by complete secrecy, begins with changes which the U.S. Administration has previously announced, to the effect that its future moves over the Arab-Israeli conflict would be of a secretive nature without announcing the nature of such moves and their results. It is clear that the current efforts of the American diplomat fall in this context. But the hard tone expressed by Murphy through his eagerness to confirm that his government rejects the call for holding an international conference to search for a solution within the framework of international legitimacy, cast shadows of doubt indicating the impossibility of reaching a just formula for a solution.

There is no doubt that from the Arab leaders he met Mr Murphy has heard a different view from the one adopted by his government. This calls for confining the talks to a bilateral context between the enemy and the Arab sides involved in the conflict, a matter which is strongly resisted by the Arabs on the basis that the enemy and its supporters refuse to recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the right of their legitimate representative, the PLO, to participate in the search for a just and lasting solution.

Under these conditions any negotiations outside international legitimacy will not achieve any results. Hence it is unlikely that Richard Murphy's tour will achieve any practical results because of the wide gap between the attitudes and the existence of essential differences.

Defense Minister Comments on Military Training

GF190710 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 17 Dec 84 p 1

[Falih al-Saghir report]

[Text] Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister and inspector general, has said that it is not difficult to obtain arms. However, it is not easy to find manpower capable of managing and using them in the interest of true Islamic religion.

In an interview with *AL-YAWM* and *'UKAZ*, Prince Sultan said that the Saudi citizens and government are proud of having found this manpower, thanks to God and the excellent directions from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his heir apparent. Prince Sultan expressed hope that all involved will continue their diligence to serve their religion, country, and king.

Prince Sultan added: We are always trying to increase and develop the efficiency of the Saudi soldier so that he can perform his duties within the framework of the objectives established for the Saudi Armed Forces have been established — that is, the protection of holy shrines in the interest of Islam and the Muslims. A good yardstick for measuring the success of our attention paid to the Armed Forces is the level of learning, training, military tactics, and confidence attained by our men who are managing the operation of sophisticated military equipment previously managed by foreigners.

With regard to foreign news reports alleging that the military equipment is not managed by Saudis, Prince Sultan said: I cannot judge such issues. You are the best jury to judge and answer these allegations.

On the subject of Prince Sultan's opinion of the Saudi soldier, he said: We used to send our men for training to Pakistan and European and American countries. Currently, training fields are available in the Kingdom. These fields include military colleges, schools, and institutes equipped with the latest scientific military equipment. All these achievements have been effected thanks to God and the directions and guidance of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Prince Sultan said: Every student who has recently joined the Armed Forces is currently being taught military science by citizens of our dear country.

He denied that there is any plan to hold a GCC defense ministers meeting in the near future, but stressed that such a meeting will inevitably be held in the future. Prince Sultan said: A ministerial committee has been formed with the collaboration of the science and technology center and the Industry and Electricity Ministry. This committee is concerned with the studies conducted by the GCC industrialization organ. Progress in this regard will be reported shortly.

Prince Sultan expressed readiness to welcome any GCC students who wish to study at Saudi military institutions. He said: This GCC cooperation is our current and future policy. GCC cooperation currently exists in all military fields including training and acquiring technical expertise. He paid tribute to the continued coordination, through the military committee, among the GCC states.

YAR

Further Reportage on ICO Conference in Sanaa

More Ministers Arrive

GF191950 [Editorial Report] Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT on 19 December 1984 carries a 4-minute report on the arrival of the following ICO officials: Alioune Blondin, Mali minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Tunku Ahmad Rithauddeen, Malaysian foreign minister [name as heard]; (Husayn Ghassan Arnaout), chief of the Middle East Department of the UN High Commission for Refugee Affairs.

Meeting Opens After Delay

LD190840 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 19, IRNA — The annual meeting of the foreign ministers of the ICO opened in Yemen Arab Republic's capital city, Sanaa, amid tight security, Tuesday afternoon following a seven-hour delay.

President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen, in his inaugural speech at the Sanaa's officers college, called for unity among Muslims and Islamic countries. He said grave dangers threatened the Islamic countries and added that Zionist occupation of Palestine and southern Lebanon proved [the] shamelessness of the Zionist regime. Encountering such aggressions called for united ranks and firm determination of the Islamic countries, he stressed.

Further in his speech he hoped that the conference would provide the participants with an opportunity to take measures for removal of differences and problems in the Islamic community.

On the Iraqi imposed war, he hoped that the foreign ministers of Islamic countries through their vigorous efforts would find a solution.

The next speaker of the session was the foreign minister of Bangladesh, who talked about problems in the Islamic world and stressed the need for a collective effort to liberate the Qods and Palestine. He also pledged support of the conference for the PLO.

The Bangladesh foreign minister also called on the member countries to find rational ways of stopping the Iraqi imposed war.

The chairman of the ICO, Habib Chatti, in a speech stressed unity among Islamic countries and also announced his candidacy for the next term chairmanship of the conference.

New Secretary General Elected

LD191032 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa 19 Dec (KUNA) — The Council of Foreign Ministers of the Islamic countries here today elected Sharifuddin Pirzada new secretary general to the ICO [to succeed Habib Chatti].

Velayati Meets Turkish, Indonesian Counterparts

LD191042 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Dec. 19, IRNA — Foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a meeting with his Indonesian counterpart, Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, here Tuesday morning discussed issues related to the Islamic Conference Organization. Velayati invited his Indonesian counterpart to visit Iran, which he accepted.

Meanwhile, in a separate meeting with the Turkish Foreign Affairs Minister Ilter Turkmen Tuesday morning, Velayati discussed issues related to mutual relations and those related to ICO. The 15th meeting of the ICO opened in Sanaa Tuesday afternoon with participation of representatives from some 45 countries.

Velayati Meets President Salih

LD191124 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 19, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a meeting here with the Yemen Arab Republic president, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, here Tuesday, discussed issues of mutual interest and international issues. Velayati, currently here at the head of the Iranian delegation to the 15th meeting of the foreign affairs ministers from [the] Islamic Conference Organization, talked about [the] decisive stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the Iraqi imposed war.

Velayati further reminded that the issue of Palestine and Zionist occupation of the Islamic territories, was the most important issue among some 106 subjects to be raised in the course of the conference. He stressed that the conference should deal with this issue seriously and firmly, and added that it was unfortunate that some non-Islamic countries and certain Islamic countries were trying to give legitimacy to the Zionist regime.

Another important issue of the Islamic community, he said, was the foreign occupation of Afghanistan and said that it was regretable that the ICO had no clear and decisive stance towards the issue.

Referring to the importance that the Islamic Republic of Iran has attached to its relations with the Islamic countries, Velayati said that ICO should have a well formulated and long-term plan for improvement of the impoverished Islamic countries.

On the Iraqi imposed war, he once again reiterated the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that Iran has responded to the aggressions of the Iraqi regime without needing any foreign aid, and will continue to do the same. Further on the Iraqi imposed war, he said that Iran has the power to deal with the Iraqi regime's aggressions and soon the fate of Saddam will be settled.

The Yemenese president told Velayati that his trip was a positive step in mutual relations, and added that his government and people attached great importance to their relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic revolution.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister's Speech

LD191344 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0924 GMT 19 Dec 84

["Text" of speech by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign and information minister, to the 15th conference of the ICO foreign ministers in Sanaa on 19 December]

[Text] Mr Chairman, brothers. I would like to express before you all our profound pleasure in meeting you, brothers in Islam, in the capital city of this old Muslim country. I would like to praise the historic and continuous role of the fraternal Yemeni people in all aspects of Islamic life since the early stages of our religion. I am also pleased to express profound thanks and gratitude to the YAR — president, government, and people — for the warm welcome and hospitality we have received and for the successful and fruitful efforts that have been made by the YAR in preparing for this great Islamic gathering.

No doubt, the meaningful words and enlightened ideas contained in the valuable inaugural speech of His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih will help guide our conference to success, for which we pray to Almighty God, so that we can rise up to the aspirations of the sons of Islam everywhere. I would like to second the proposal of the chairman of the 14th conference to make the speech of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih one of the official documents of this conference.

I am also pleased, brother chairman, to congratulate you personally and the rest of the brother members of the bureau for the confidence you have been given by this conference and which you worthily deserve in view of the capabilities, efficiences, and high Islamic spirit you enjoy. I would also like to express thanks and gratitude to his excellency the brother minister of foreign affairs of Bangladesh for his efforts and the way he administered the previous session of the conference during his chairmanship.

I am also pleased to praise the sincere efforts Brother Habib Chatti, secretary general of our organization, and the rest of the brother officials working at the General Secretariat continue to exert.

Brothers, in order to be able to add, through this conference, a driving and motivating force for the march of joint Islamic action, we must be frank and objective in challenging and treating the various issues before us, which comprise the troubles and the aspirations of the Islamic nation.

It is also logical, in order to proceed in that direction, to let the supreme joint interest of the Arab world overcome the narrow individual outlook of the member states. We all know through our direct experiences in the organization how the hardened views of some have prevented an advance in the various spheres of joint Islamic action. I see in this an astonishing alienation from the blessed Koranic words which say, "their affairs being counsel among them." I am confident that, if we confer on our affairs with a true, fraternal Islamic spirit and with the serious and comprehensive search required by our fateful issues, we, God willing, will reach a common vision and, subsequently, postures and plans for unified action, the leading issue of this conference.

What can we say to the world around us? What can we say to the coming generations of Muslims when we are asked why the fighting between brothers in Islam continues, especially Iraq and Iran? Why have we — all the Islamic states — failed, in this tragic manner, to find a way to halt this sorrowful Islamic hemorrhage immediately?

Brothers, no doubt, there are important issues on our agenda, but there is nothing that has priority over stopping the shedding of Islamic blood so that we can, after achieving this, jointly confront the enemies who are lying in wait for this nation and the interests of its peoples. It is only right that I should state before you that fraternal Iraq — by virtue of its positive attitude and thanks to the efforts it has so far made for mediation — has facilitated our work in this field. Here I would like to repeat my appeal to the brothers in the Islamic Republic of Iran to show a similar cooperation so that we can — with God's assistance and within the framework of the ICO — reach a just solution for this war, guaranteeing both sides' dignity and legitimate rights, so that Iraq and Iran — both principal Islamic states — can afterwards continue their appropriate and effective roles in the Islamic action.

Brothers what we are facing in Palestine clearly reflects the size of the challenges and dangers our Islamic world faces, challenges to the core our faith's existence, our heritage, and our territory. We also see a deliberate coincidence between the slanderous assault against Islam and the implementation of plans in the Palestinian land to destroy the Al-Aqsa Mosque and to build a Zionist temple on its ruins. The repression, terrorism, and deportation facing our struggling brothers in Palestine and Lebanon are final aspects of these plans. Our conference must firmly condemn the hated Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and its brutal practices against the struggling patriotic forces.

Brothers, time is not in our favor. Methods to confront the various aspects of the Palestinian question, therefore, must be more forceful and speedy, stressing the continued firm stand of the Islamic world behind the steadfast Palestinian people's effort to regain their legitimate national rights under the leadership of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, and proving in everything we do our practical support for the Arab countries which the Zionist enemy partially occupies.

The Afghan question still represents one of the most prominent concerns of the Islamic world. No doubt, it is our duty at this conference to continue our interest in this issue, reaffirming our unified stance of supporting the freedom and sovereignty of this Muslim country, a matter which necessitates the total and unconditional withdrawal of foreign forces from the territories of this country so that the people of Afghanistan can, with absolute freedom, determine what political and social system they want on their own. The good prospects of Islam do not stop with Muslims, but go further to embrace all mankind. Therefore, we ought to look at the tragedy of the famine in Africa, which

threatens the lives of our brothers, as an urgent issue that requires us all to contribute in order to lessen the burden as much as possible. For our part, Kuwait has given and is still giving this matter the attention it deserves and has given what has been possible in terms of official and popular aid and assistance.

Brothers, in referring to the most prominent challenges confronting our region and our Islamic world, we should pause at a dangerous problem which came into being sometime ago, has recently worsened at the international level, and has spread to affect Islamic sides and states which are members of this organization — the problem of international terrorism and blackmail through the hijacking, murder, and intimidation of peaceful individuals and groups. Perhaps the most dangerous phenomenon, which recently became evident in this respect, is that the terrorist groups that carry out such actions assume Islamic names and descriptions, a matter which flagrantly belies our tolerant Islamic faith, which condemns such criminal acts and calls for the imposition of the heaviest of penalties on those who carry them out. They are corrupt people violating all the sublime human principles and values on which our humane faith is based. Perhaps we are called upon more than ever before to take deterrent measures through a collective effort by our organization to put an end to such acts, deter those who carry out such acts, and prevent such acts from realizing their evil, sinful aims.

Brothers, I would like to add a necessary step on our agenda, which includes more than 100 subjects. Without any doubt, the increasing expansion of our conference's work, with its serious and suitable discussions, is all but impossible to accomplish in a few days, and prompts me, with all sincerity and for the supreme aims of our organization, to propose that increased efforts be exerted to condense, whenever possible, the items of the agenda of this conference's annual sessions. We all undoubtedly know of the repeated complaints by the brother chairmen and members of the four main committees of this conference, which study them and prepare the necessary resolutions on them in this rushed time. The rush is bound to be at the expense of serious and efficient work.

Finally, allow me, my brothers, to take the opportunity of this blessed meeting to stress Kuwait's firm posture toward Islamic cooperation and its readiness to back and support everything that the will of our Islamic nation unanimously agrees on, everything that will bring it benefit and strength, and everything that achieves prosperity and security for its people. I beseech God to grant us success and to inspire us along the right path.

Iraq's 'Aziz Addresses Meeting

JN1914 27 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, 19 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that Iran's insistence on continuing its aggression against Iraq despite all efforts to end the war, is related to the fact that it is completely responsible for igniting the war and starting the aggression. In a speech before the foreign ministers of the ICO countries here today, he said that by igniting the war and insisting on continuing it, Iran aims to impose its custodianship over Iraq, interfere in its internal affairs, and export the so-called revolution to Iraq and all the region's states. He added that Iran is practicing abnormal behavior in its relations with all countries. Its flagrant aggression against Iraq and use of all methods of sabotage which culminated in the military aggression; the vicious war confirm this behavior.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that Iraq has been using all means to avoid confrontation, stressing the need to establish neighborly relations with Iran and settle the conflict and war through peaceful means based on international law and norms. He affirmed that it is not only Iraq that suffers from the Iranian regime's abnormal behavior, its obstinacy, and intransigence, but all international organizations and numerous countries.

The minister reviewed the Iranian regime's practices within the ICO. He indicated in this regard the Iranian regime's boycott of the third and fourth Islamic summits in Al-Ta'if and Casablanca, its boycott of the 12th summit of the ICO foreign ministers in Baghdad, and its open attacks and accusations against these conferences and those who participated in them. Tariq 'Aziz added: If the Iranian regime intends to submit proposals to this conference, it must accept the mandate of the ICO; otherwise, it would be useless and a waste of time to accept its proposals.

He recalled the Iranian regime's rejection of good offices efforts and its ill-natured stand on President Dawda Jawara's desire to visit both Iraq and Iran and present proposals on settling the dispute. He affirmed that President Saddam Husayn had positively responded to and welcomed President Jawara's desire to visit Iraq.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister called on the ICO to urge the Iranian regime to announce its acceptance of the ICO's mandate and its recognition of the ICO resolutions. He held the Iranian regime responsible for the crushing war and its continuation, as well as for the bloodshed by Muslims and the loss of their money and energies. He also added that this regime is responsible for threatening peace and security in the region. He also referred to the Iranian regime's bad treatment of Iraqi POW's, a fact that constitutes a new crime and a violation of all international norms and charters.

'Aziz also stressed that this regime not only refused to disclose the presence of the POW's and prevent them from sending letters to their families, it also tortured them, subjected them to political pressure, brainwashing, and degradation, and has begun to kill them since 1981. He called on the conferees to make a serious decision, on the basis of God's teachings and international norms, to punish the Iranian regime for its crime and to reduce the pain of thousands of Iraqi POW's being exposed to Iranian crimes.

He also welcomed the presence of Egypt in the conference and its restoration as an effective member in the ICO. He stressed that the ICO must adopt effective positions and exert intensive efforts to support the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, and take every action to force the Zionist entity to withdraw its invasion forces from Lebanon without any preconditions.

Iran Condemns Egypt's Return

LD191839 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Dec. 19, IRNA — Despite strong opposition from the Islamic Republic and Syria, the ICO Wednesday reaffirmed the reinstatement of Egypt as member in the organisation. The Islamic Republic's delegation, led by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said Egypt's membership was illegal and harshly criticised the ICO committee that recommended Egypt's return. The committee's action was aimed at tricking the Islamic countries, said an Iranian delegate.

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stressed on the need to bring an end to the Iraqi imposed war, in a message to 15th ministerial meeting of the ICO.

The message read to the meeting Tuesday, expressed gratitude on the half in attacks against civilians in Iran and Iraq.

The Kuwaiti delegation spoke in support of the regime in Baghdad and called for peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran. It also requested Iran to try the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held private talks today with his counterpart from Sierra Leone, Abdulai Conteh, who said he would like to visit Tehran for economic talks in the near future, which was welcomed by Velayati.

Velayati also held talks with the leader of the Moro Liberation Movement, and the adviser of President Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh.

Open Session Resumed

GF191910 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The 15th conference of the ICO foreign ministers resumed its meetings in open session today under the chairmanship of Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and member of the Standing Committee. The conference listened to speeches delivered by the representative of the Turkish Cypriots, the assistant secretary general of the Arab League, the assistant secretary general of the World Islamic League, and the secretary general of the Islamic Call Association.

Later the open session was adjourned and the close session began. The brother chairman of the conference asked Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, chairman of the meeting of the senior officials, to read the report on the senior employees' committee which included the agenda of the 15th session. Later, four committees were formed by the conference: the Political Affairs and Information Committee; the Economy and Planning Committee; the Culture and Islamic Heritage Committee; and the Finance Committee.

Egypt's Al-Majid Addresses Council

NC191953 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has stressed that the Islamic nation desperately needs to renounce its differences, end its conflicts, unite its voice, close ranks, and consolidate its solidarity if it is to serve the Muslims' goals and aspirations.

Addressing the Islamic states' foreign ministers conference in Sanaa tonight, 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt spares no efforts or sacrifices and places all of its resources at the ICO's service to deepen integration and consolidate solidarity among the Islamic countries.

He expressed Egypt's belief that the Islamic nation possesses the materiel and manpower to effectively contribute in the search for solutions to many issues and problems facing today's world.

The foreign minister added: Egypt believes that the Palestinian people's exercise of their national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own state is the goal of our nation. Egypt urges all fraternal Islamic states to sacrifice and to render genuine support to the Palestinian people's efforts to regain their rights. He also called upon every Islamic state to refrain from interfering in the Palestinian people's domestic affairs. He said that Egypt has demanded and continues to demand that concerted efforts be made to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon and to seek the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon as soon as possible, so that the fraternal Lebanese people can secure sovereignty and independence.

On another issue, 'Abd al-Majid said: We are dutybound to support the fraternal Afghan people's struggle.

He called on the Greek Cypriots to complete the steps toward dialogue and reconciliation, to safeguard their state's territorial integrity, independence, and nonalignment, to guarantee the rights of all citizens without discrimination.

On the Iraqi-Iranian war, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that it is time that the ICO impose a specific plan of action and put forward clear resolutions that can put an end to this conflict. The foreign minister also addressed the economic problems facing the Islamic world, noting Egypt's belief, given the deteriorating economic situation, in the importance of advancing the initiation of comprehensive negotiations, within the UN framework, to create a new economic system.

'Abd al-Majid made note of the work of the Egyptian technical cooperation fund for Africa, the activity of which has been extended to include cooperation with many African states. The foreign minister concluded his speech by saying: Egypt believes that the horizons of cooperation among the Islamic states are wide and compatible with the aspirations of our nation's peoples. He said that firm progress in all discussed areas would ensure unity of ranks and hearts in confronting the problems and political issues facing the Islamic nation.

Saudi Foreign Minister's Speech

LD192015 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Dec 84

["Text of Statement Made by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference in Sanaa" — SPA headline]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Chairman, the Israeli aggression continues to bluster in the Arab region in a manner which constitutes the most serious adversity facing our nation, threatening its security and stability, impeding its development and progress and helping to divide it further. The international community has failed to put and end to this aggression which has been imposed on our Arab Palestine and Holy Jerusalem and which has even gone beyond its boundaries to occupy other Arab territories and carry devastation and ruination to other neighboring countries. This aggression threatens not only the peace and security of the region but also world peace and security.

However, there is yet one positive aspect amid all that is represented in the Arabs' ability to assert their true work for peace based on justice and not imposed by force and suppression. The resolutions of the 12th Arab summit conference which was held in Fes fall within this framework.

The Zionist entity is a heavy burden on the shoulders of the international community: For never before has a member of the international community embarked on the violation of international law and tradition and persisted in defying and resisting international power as Israel has done. Indeed, Israel constitutes a political, economic and moral liability to the countries which support and bolster it.

Hence, we must deal with the basic components of the just settlement of the Palestine question, foremost of which is the guaranteeing of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, those wronged people who have been forced out of their homes, deprived of their land and the natural rights enjoyed by other world peoples, as well as the insuring of Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory, particularly Jerusalem.

In this respect, I repeat here the warning the USSR and all the Islamic countries and indeed all the peace-loving nations of the world have made about the gravity of the Zionist designs which aim to change the features of Jerusalem and detract from its sanctity and that of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and holy places in Palestine.

There is a sure desire for peace in the Arab and Islamic world. But if failure to deal with this chronic question continues, if the Zionist entity persists with its extremism and if Israel continues to violate the sanctity of the holy places in Palestine, the Arab and Islamic nations would be forced to mobilize their capabilities to face up to the Israeli extremism. Then the price will be dear and its effects will not be confined to the Middle East region.

Mr Chairman. The situation in Lebanon is still fraught with dangers that are likely to explode at any moment. The continuation of the Israeli military presence in Lebanon and Israel's continued attempts so openly to create sedition and problems among the various Lebanese factions, coupled with its interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon, provide yet more proof of its expansionist intentions and aggressive aims and objectives. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom and its sister Arab countries have exerted great efforts toward cooperation with the Lebanese Government and supporting its efforts to restore normalcy, and will continue to exert efforts toward this end. But these efforts will not bear fruits and true stability will not prevail until the Israeli invasion and occupation in all its forms comes to an end.

The Iraqi-Iranian war has lost all justification. Our organization has called for and works earnestly and unceasingly for putting an end to this tragedy between the two neighboring Muslim countries. Other international organizations have also exerted efforts toward this end, as did the GCC, which has exerted exhaustive efforts in this regard.

We in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom have supported and contributed to all these efforts. However, there is a positive attitude represented by Iraq's manifestation of readiness, for which we are thankful, to forget the past and to seek the solution of its problems with its sister Iran by peaceful means. Our conference should not fail to note this positive attitude on the part of Iraq and must express its appreciation for it. We hope that the Iraqi attitude will promote a reciprocal attitude which would put an end to the bloodshed and the tragedy. We seize the opportunity of the convocation of this conference to address a sincere appeal to all the combatant brothers to lay down their weapons as spare blood and to resort to reason rather than to fire and devastation.

In the name of the sacred bonds that bind them together and bind us to them we urge them to cast away differences and to respond to the good offices that are being exerted. Let them remember God's saying: "Do not be like those who separated and quarreled after they had seen the truth," and "obey God and his messenger and do not quarrel and so fail and wither," and "the Muslims are brothers, so make peace between your brothers and fear God so that he may bestow his mercy upon you."

Mr Chairman. The Afghan problem occupies its place in the vanguard of the adversities afflicting our Islamic world. It demands the exertion of further efforts to secure the withdrawal of Soviet forces from that country unconditionally and to guarantee the inalienable right of the Afghan people to choose the regime they want without any foreign interference or pressure."

The Saudi Arabian Kingdom calls on this conference to shoulder effectively and seriously the responsibility placed upon its shoulders in this regard and to carefully consider this issue in a manner which would help the Afghan people to overcome this crisis through which they are going and put an end to the tragedy they are living, by the mobilization of capabilities and by working in all fields and on all arenas and at all international conferences and organizations, and to work for freeing the will of the struggling Afghan people, secure their right to freedom and independence and dignity in their homeland and to enable them to exercise their sovereignty over their land.

As the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is growing more ferocious day by day and is expanding, and as the cause of the Afghan people has been gaining wider support in international quarters

and particularly at the United Nations, our conference should adopt a decision reflecting the unanimous Islamic support it deserves, expressing a strong attitude of solidarity with the fraternal Afghan people and exploiting the growing international support to serve the cause of the Afghan people.

Mr Chairman. I wish to express our pleasure at what we have heard from the representative of the Turkish Cypriots about the holding of negotiations under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. We hope these talks will result in a just solution for the problem of safeguarding the basic interests of the brother Turkish patriots.

Bahrain Foreign Minister Address

GF200520 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 20 Dec 84 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, made a fresh plea for an end to the Gulf war at the Islamic conference in North Yemen yesterday. In a speech to delegates gathered in the capital of Sanaa, he also reaffirmed support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, criticised Soviet repression of Muslims in Afghanistan and called for still stronger ties between Islamic countries.

Beginning by thanking the Yemeni People and Yemen President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for their hospitality and support at the conference, he went on. "The convening of our conference at this juncture is a very important event, for it enables us to pause and think of dealing with the challenges facing the world in general, and the Islamic world in particular.

"At the same time, this gives us the opportunity to strengthen Islamic solidarity in order to help rectify the dangerous developments which have surfaced in international relations, reviving cold war rivalries, increasing the intensity of tensions, and threatening consequently the peace and security of mankind.

"This stormy climate has affected the Islamic world causing threats to its countries, and economic and social crises and problems to its peoples. Foremost among them is the cultural invasion, the psychological war," the fruitless attempts to break the unity of the Islamic nation, and the wastage of efforts to weaken us.

Islamic brotherhood must prevail so that our nation may confront the challenges, difficulties and problems facing it. "We must reach our aim of building a strong Islamic society that emphasises our honour, will, and strength, and support growth and development to bring us nearer to establishing a better world in which Islam is its root, guide, and shelter.

"What is most painful is the war waging for almost five years between Iraq and Iran. Its ferocity increases day by day, so that Muslims and neighbours kill and fight one another.

"These losses prevent the two Muslim countries from assisting and supporting other Islamic countries. Therefore, we call upon the two to heed the call for peace, and upon Iran to respond to the conciliation efforts made by the Islamic conference and other parties.

"The greatest challenge facing our Islamic world is in the Middle East, which is an important part of the Islamic world. Special mention should be made of the Palestinian people, who have been denied the most basic human rights, and have been deprived of their homeland, which has been seized by force.

"From this Islamic rostrum, we appeal to the international community and its people to coordinate their efforts with ours to help the Palestinian people recover their inalienable human rights. These include a return to their homeland and Al-Quds al-Sharif, and liberation of the rest of the Arab land still under occupation, including a unified Lebanon under its legitimate government.

"The tragic situation of the Islamic people is also manifested by the aggression against the Muslims of Afghanistan and the violation of their territory and sovereignty. This calls for a world effort with our organization to reach [a] political solution to put an end to the suffering of the Afghan people, and secure the withdrawal of Soviet forces.

"The situation in Africa is still a source of concern to the Muslim world, where the racist minority regime persists in imposing its hegemony, and the continuation of its violation of the civil and political rights of the Namibian and South African peoples. These African people need world-wide sympathy and support for their struggle to win freedom and independence."

Al-Turayki Meets Prince Sa'ud

LD200605 Tripoli JANA in English 1450 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Rabi Awal 297, Dec. 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, the foreign liaison bureau secretary met here yesterday with Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister and discussed the importance of boosting bilateral relations and promoting cooperation relations in all fields between Jamahiriyah and Saudi Arabia so as to realise joint interest for the two brotherly people. Islamic, Arab and international issues of joint interest were also discussed.

Al-Turayki Meets Conference Ministers

LD200608 Tripoli JANA in English 1452 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Rabi Awal 27, Dec 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A meeting was held here yesterday afternoon involving the secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau, Dr al-Turayki, and the foreign ministers of Iran, and North Yemen, as well as the deputy foreign minister of Syria. The meeting took up the coordination of stands as regards issues proposed to the 15th session of the ICO's foreign ministers, currently held in Sanaa. Colonialist conspiracies being devised against the security, stability, and peace of ICO countries, and means to confront them were also discussed.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Departs

GF191912 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Indonesian delegation led by Indonesian Foreign Minister Moktar Kusumaatmaja left Sanaa today after taking part in the opening session of the 15th ICO foreign ministers meeting which began in Sanaa yesterday.

Yugoslav Information Secretary Arrives in Cairo

NC200720 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA) — Mitko Calovski, Yugoslav federal secretary of information, arrived in Cairo early this morning on a 4-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

During the visit, Calovski will hold talks on bolstering bilateral relations in the information field in light of the existing information agreements between both countries and within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

Malaysian Prime Minister Discusses Cooperation

NC200927 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA) — Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mohamed Bin Mahathir described his visit to Egypt and the talks with key Egyptian officials as fruitful and a successful embodiment of the South-South dialogue.

In an interview to be published in tomorrow's issue of the weekly *AL-MUSAWWAR*, the Malaysian prime minister said that, thanks to the talks, an agreement was signed providing for Malaysian businessmen to join their Egyptian colleagues in setting up a large-scale factory in Egypt for cooking oil. Other issues, he added, are still being studied by both sides.

Speaking about bilateral military cooperation, the Malaysian prime minister said that Malaysia wants to buy Egyptian weapons and that the relevant negotiations are underway. The Egyptian authorities, he said, arranged for us to have a useful tour of several military factories, including the aircraft factory.

AL-AHRAM on Proposed Antiterrorist Measures

PM181424 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 14 Dec 84 p 4

[Salamah Ahmad Salamah "Significance of Events" column: "On Confronting Terror"]

[Excerpts] The hijacking incident where the Kuwaiti airliner flying from the UAE to Karachi, in which four hijackers landed at Tehran airport and for a whole week carried out various forms of public torture of innocent passengers, has rekindled talk about combating international terror. This new terror has been described by some as a clandestine and undeclared war behind which governments and terrorist organizations are hiding. It is difficult to locate these terrorist organizations and know their formations and objectives, and therefore it is difficult to predict their trends, targets, and movements. The worst thing about these terrorist operations is that they are carried out under resounding slogans — such as national struggle, revolution, or whatever — which deceive those who join the operations, support them, or collude with them. It has been observed that most of these are young men in their twenties who fall into the trap of extremist ideas and creeds, and are driven by a desire to die a martyr's death for the sake of a cause or principle, or out of despair that justice and freedom will ever prevail in the world. They believe that injustice, corruption, and tyranny can be fought only with terrorist methods.

So far there has been no objective study of international terror and its roots. Most of the studies and reports published have been issued by governments or states that have substantially contributed to the terror industry, to exporting it, and to using it in various forms, or else have been the agent of suppressing revolutionary liberation movements and therefore of forcing them to channel their activities into terrorist actions. There is a strong worldwide trend today to try to separate terrorism from its political and objective root causes, and to deal with it as a purely criminal phenomenon against which open military measures can be taken. Also there is an attempt to separate terror in the Middle East from terrorist activites in some European countries so that, on the pretext of dealing with terrorist forces, action can be taken against certain countries for different political reasons, and despite the inhuman and repressive practices in disputed areas under domination and occupation.

As a consquence of this, a heated debate erupted in the U.S. Administration. In repeated statements in the past few months, Secretary of State George Shultz has demanded that retaliatory and preemptive blows be struck against terrorist locations. He called for military measures against them in the places where intelligence reports and information confirm their presence, regardless of what might befall innocent people, on the pretext of self-defense. In making these statements, George Shultz had in mind only the positions of the Lebanese Shi'ites whom Iran is accused of sponsoring and financing in the Al-Biqa' area. On the other hand, this policy is opposed by the U.S. Defense Department and the chiefs of staff. Weinberger has warned against taking military measures before certain conditions are satisfied. He was supported by George Bush and President Reagan, who said that such action would be no different from what the terrorists are doing. But the difference between the two trends might not last for long and the military retaliatory trend advocated by Shultz might win the day, which might lead to serious consequences.

The Middle East countries, whether the Gulf region, Egypt, or Jordan, have certainly been, more than others, the scene of recent terrorist activities. Some of these terrorist activities have been so ugly and gruesome that nobody should remain silent over them. This calls for collective Arab efforts to confront these activities, as well as the regimes that deliberately or unwillingly maintain silence over them.Moreover, it is the right of these countries to have the final say on the method of confrontation, because if the question of combating terror is left to the imaginations of the big powers alone, or to bilateral cooperation, then this might lead to exploitation of the weak security points in the Arab world and to infiltration of sensitive points in the absence of any understanding and coordination in defining the meaning of terror and means of combating it.

It is understood that the arbitrary retaliatory measures which the United States took against the extremist Lebanese Shi'ite elements in the Al-Biqa' plain following the blowing up of the U.S. military headquarters and the U.S. Embassy in Beirut and the

death of 300 U.S. soldiers did not help, as it was thought then, in eradicating the roots of the terrorist elements that have infiltrated Lebanon and various parts of the area. Indeed, what happened later in Beirut itself and in Kuwait, and the recent hijacking of the Kuwaiti plane, were only the direct result of the inconsiderate U.S. retaliatory measures and of the barbaric Israeli measures in southern Lebanon. This would be worsened by the joint U.S.-Israeli action which both sides intend to take to combat terror.

There are well known political undercurrents that feed the terror that lies beneath the violent and bloody events in the Middle East. If we are to identify these undercurrents and examine them prepartory to taking real measures to deal with the problem of terror on the international level, we must clearly pinpoint them:

1. The apparent Arab and international inability to solve the worsening problems of the Middle East conflict, whether with regard to the Palestinian problem, the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, or the Gulf War, and the increasing feeling of general frustration and distrust in the area, as well as the increasing despair felt by the countries and peoples of the area.

2. The reprisal operations which Israel carries out in the West Bank, Gaza, and southern Lebanon.

3. The cooperation by some of the Arab regimes with some terrorist elements or their succumbing to these elements' blackmail.

4. The problemsolving by the big powers themselves through blatant military force or through clandestine intelligence activities, as the United States does in Nicaragua and El Salvador, and as the Soviet Union is doing in Afghanistan.

5. The free access to the international arms market by whoever has the material means to buy arms and the involvement of Western and Eastern countries in the sale of arms to middlemen and brokers in quest of large profits.

The recent Kuwaiti plane incident might reveal Iranian collusion or sympathy because the Iranian forces did not move to storm the plane and arrest the hijackers until after Syrian mediation in response to a Saudi appeal. It also reveals at the same time that Gulf security still seems to exist only on paper despite the many meeting of the GCC. In the final analysis, it could also prove that cooperation between the United States and its allies to direct a haphazard or calculated retaliatory blow while the countries of the area stand idly by in the face of these measures will not be an effective method of eradicating or confrontating terror.

AL-AKHBAR Rebukes 'Trivial' Stands at ICO Meeting

NC200745 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 20 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing under the headline: "The Way the Sanaa Meeting Can Prove Its Worthiness," *AL-AKHBAR* editorially condemns the trivial stands taken during the ICO foreign ministers meeting by the Syrian, Iranian, Libyan, and South Yemeni brothers who have been questioning the legitimacy of Egypt's readmission to the ICO.

The paper notes that there are other stands that, if taken, would prove the valor of the ICO participants. For example, Iran can declare peace which everyone, inside and outside the Muslim world, has been calling for. Similarly, Syria can take a proper stance on the internecine war between Iraq and Iran. Also, the ICO participants could seek a formula to utilize the wealth of the Muslim world so that it could enhance its strength and have a say in world affairs. In addition, the paper says, those who have taken these trivial stands should seek an effective way to save the Muslims who are victims of the famines in Ethiopia, Somalia, Chad, Uganda, and Mauritania.

AL-AHRAM Criticizes Israeli Raids in South Lebanon

NC200705 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 20 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline: "Israeli Provocations," *AL-AHRAM* says that Israel is continuing its provocative measures in south Lebanon. Israel staged a second raid against the peaceful inhabitants of south Lebanon in less than 1 week. The Israelis, the paper says, fired at random, terrorizing women, the elderly, and children. They killed, injured, and detained people during these raids.

It is bizarre, the paper says, that such provocative raids have been timed while military talks are taking place in Al-Naqurah with the aim of achieving an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon accompanied by security arrangements. It is impossible for any sober person to regard Israel as sincere about the talks if its forces are repeating these planned raids for no justifiable reason.

Likewise, the paper says, it is inconceivable that Israel is serious about the military talks with Lebanon, while it keeps threatening to stage a unilateral partial withdrawal from Lebanon, in total disregard of Lebanon's just call for complete withdrawal.

In this regard, the paper points to Mubarak's statement welcoming the sultan of Brunei, that Egypt does not accept the deterioration in the Lebanese situation. We, Mubarak said, are calling on Israel to promptly withdraw from Lebanon. We also call for an immediate solution for the Palestinian issue.

AL-AHRAM concludes by stressing that a just solution for the Palestinian problem — on the basis of mutual recognition and Palestinian self-determination — would boost the Lebanese people's efforts for national unity and for liberating their land from Israeli occupation.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Interviews RCC's Na'im Haddad

JN191230 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Dec 84 p 21

[Interview with Na'im Haddad, RCC member and secretary of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front in Iraq, by Shakir al-Jawhari for *SAWT AL-SHA'B* and the Kuwaiti publication *AL-MAJALIS* in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] Has Iraq adopted any stand toward or formed any opinion about His Majesty King Husayn's proposal to the PNC?

[Haddad] Iraq's current central and basic task is to confront the Iranian aggression, because currently, Iraq cannot assume any other pan-Arab task except at the expense of its major task. We said at the Fes summit, and that was our first stand in this regard, that we support the PLO's stand and option because the PLO is the Palestinian people's legitimate representative. We support the PLO and respect its decisions, and we will hold a fraternal dialogue on any opinion we believe to be sound.

[Al-Jawhari] Iraq is now mobilizing the Arab forces that agree to work within the framework of a comprehensive plan as viewed by Iraq. On this basis, the Egyptian-Iraqi relations will be promoted, and on the same basis the Iraqi-Jordanian and the Iraqi-Palestinian relations were promoted. What do you seek to achieve from mobilizing these forces on the strategic and political levels?

[Haddad] Before the Baghdad summit resolution, we exerted efforts to prevent Egypt's detachment from the trench of Arab struggle and Arab ranks. However, in light of Al-Sadat's deviation and the signing of the Camp David accords, the Baghdad summit was held and adopted resolutions to confine Camp David to the relations between the Egyptian and the Zionist regimes so as to prevent these accords from being spread to other Arab regimes.

As you know, at that time there were signs that some other Arab regimes would respond to Camp David. The Baghdad summit resolutions isolated Egypt from the Arabs. However, the Arab situation continued to deteriorate and a number of setbacks occurred and until the point of collapse was reached. Therefore, it was necessary to reconsider the Arab situation and rouse the nation. How can this arrousal be achieved? It can be done by blostering the PLO's unity and strengthening its stands, through the Arab nation's support for Iraq to end the Iraq-Iran war, and through restoring Egypt to the trench of Arab struggle, because the Arab nation is weak without Egypt, and paralyzed without Iraq.

Iraq and Egypt are the Arab nation's two fighting forces. The fraternal ties between Iraq and Egypt began so that Egypt could return to the Arab nation with all its strength. Economic and trade relations also began between the Egyptian political forces and the Iraq revolutionary organizations. Thus, the special ties have been promoted. We have received more than 1.5 million Egyptian brothers to work in Iraq. All these factors have promoted confidence between the two fraternal countries.

From this premise, we have a clear viewpoint about Egypt's return and how this must take place. We in Iraq believe that Egypt's return must begin by inviting Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to attend the Arab summits and by inviting Egypt to participate in the Arab League meetings. Diplomatic relations will remain severed and the Baghdad summit resolutions will continue to be implemented until the objective circumstances for Egypt's return come to fruition.

This means that we must come closer to Egypt one step at a time so that it may respond by a similar step. By this, we can draw Egypt closer to its nation and have the Arab nation exploit Egypt's potentials for the good of the Arab nation. The regime in Egypt has started to adopt positive steps on the foreign policy level. It resumed diplomatic relations with the USSR and its relations are no longer confined to those it has with the United States only.

It adopted positive stands on the Arab and Palestinian level when it withdrew its ambassador from Israel when the latter invaded Lebanon, supported the Palestinian resistance, and abandoned the second part of Camp David dealing with Palestinian autonomy. Our objective is to strengthen fraternal relations between Jordan and the PLO, between Egypt and the PLO, and between Iraq and all the honest Arab forces which are working in the interest of the cause.

Our efforts are not linked to a specific idea or objective other than that of Arab unity. We have no plans or anything of this kind. We want Egypt to return to its nation because the nation becomes stronger with Egypt and the latter gains strength from the Arab nation.

Regarding Jordanian-Palestinian relations, we encourage these relations. But those who must decide are Jordan and the PLO and not us. We want all the Arab countries and brothers to achieve unity, and close ranks to attain our pan-Arab objectives.

[Al-Jawhari] In his cable of congratulations to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, on the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries, President Saddam Husayn expressed hope that Reagan's second term in office will witness a reactivation of peace efforts in the region. Do you see any signs that U.S. policy will proceed in this direction during the next 4 years of reagan's term?

[Haddad] Nothing new has yet been submitted by the U.S. Administration with the exception of some allusions to some modifications in Reagan's plan. But so far nothing new has been achieved.

[Al-Jawhari] Is there any connection between the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iraq and the United States and the possibility of Washington's playing and effective role in a settlement in the region whether on the level of the Gulf war or the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Haddad] We want the United States, as a big power, at least to adopt a balanced and unbiased stand, not to mention that we are doing our best to make the U.S. stand support Arab rights. I do not believe that Iraqi-U.S. relations have anything to do with this.

The declared U.S. stand is one of neutrality regarding our war with Iran. I do not believe that the resumption of relations with the United States is connected to either of the cases you mention.

In my opinion, relations between Iraq and the United States have been severed for the past 17 years while all the other Arab countries have relations with the United States. Therefore, it is oil logical for us to have relations with one big power while our relations with another big power remain severed. That's why, after many meetings were held and many efforts were exerted, we decided to restore relations to their normal state and to resume diplomatic relations. I would like to emphasize that this step has absolutely nothing to do with either case.

[Al-Jawhari] It is evident that Iraq's relations with the USSR are constantly progressing. Reports mention that the Soviets had mediated between Baghdad and Damascus. Can you give us some details about the role Moscow assumed between Baghdad and Damascus and what this role has achieved?

[Haddad] I know and I also believe that we must constantly seek to develop our relations with the friendly USSR. We believe that this is in the interest of the UsSR, Iraq, and the Arab nation. As for the mediation, I have no information that the Soviets mediated between us and Syria.

[Al-Jawhari] A few months ago there were signs of a possible change in the Iranian stand toward acceptance of the principle of a peaceful settlement of the war with Iraq. This was constained in statements made by the Iraqi ambassador in Kuwait at the time. Have you really sensed such signs of an Iranian trend toward peace and have these signs suffered a setback, and if so why?

[Haddad] The Iranian regime tries to cover its preparations for launching new offensives by making statements implying that its stand on the prolongation of the war are on the verge of changing. Undoubtedly, there is pressure on the Iranian regime because the Iranian people support peace and this has an impact on the Iranian regime's stand. The stands adopted by Iranian officials also differ as a result of the power struggle in Iran, which makes the stand on the the war and the war itself an issue that influences the Iranian balance of power on the domestic front.

Army Commander: Iraq Ready To Defend Gulf States

LD200926 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait 20 Dec (KUAN) — A military commander in the Iraqi Army, in a press statement published here today, has reaffirmed Iraq's readiness to defend any Arab Gulf country should the latter be attacked by the Iranian regime and described his country as being able to perform the role. Commander of the Iraqi Air Force Staff, General Habib Sha'ban, said in a statement to *AL-QABAS* that the recent air raids on the areas of Iranian concentrations in the Misin sector are a small demonstration of the capablilities of the Iraqi Air Force. He added that the information received shows that these strikes directly affect the Iranian military effort and directly disrupt the moves by the enemy to concentrate his forces. The Iraqi military commander added that the Iraqi Air Force has not demonstrated its full strength and warned the Iranian enemy that a ground attack would end in disaster for him. The commander said that his is a clear and practical warning to all states which cooperate with Iran in marketing its oil or in supplying it with arms.

General Sha'ban said that Iraq has the ability to impose a total siege not only on Khark Island but on all Iranian ports, and that the Iraqi Air Force is actually capable of paralyzing movement in all Iranian oil areas as well as the approaches to Khark Island and Bandar-e Khomeyni.

Regarding Iraqi acquisition of AWACS aircraft General Sha'ban said: At the present time we have other means to identify enemy aircraft with precision.

Commenting on the recent statement by the Iraqi minister of culture and information that Iraq has a list of 70 vital and strategic targets deep inside Iran that will be hit if the Iranians launch a ground attack, the commander said that this is possible, that the Iraqi defense would be conducted in all directions, and that Iraq is ready to defend all its installations against any possible raid, be it from Israel or any other country.

Communique Issued on Recent War Operations

JN191749 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,685 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 19 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continue to deal painful blows to the evil Khomeyniites, teaching them lessons on the importance of observing rights of neighborliness and peoples' security, sover eignty, and free choice. They are thus affirming to this rancorous, evil clique and its allies, who pursue the course of evil, that the era of charlatancy and interference in peoples' choices, sovereignty, and security has gone for good and that the brave Iraqis, with their enlightened minds and powerful arms, have proved and continue to prove that nothing rises above peoples' will for freedom, justice, and achievement of human dignity. The results of operations for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. In affirmation of their absolute air supremacy over all operation sectors, our brave Air Force eagles continued their concentrated, devastating strikes at concentrations of Khomeyniite remnants in front of our forces' positions in the Al-Maysan operational sector, inflicting severe losses on enemy personnel and equipment. They returned with their planes safe and triumphant with God's care after carrying out 100 combat missions.

2. Our forward units carried out artillery and mortar strikes against several enemy personnel and equipment positions in the central operational sector, scoring direct hits and inflicting on the enemy five dead and several wounded. One medium machine gun emplacement was destroyed and its personnel were killed. Three small vehicles were destroyed and all their occupants were killed or wounded. The enemy was seen removing its losses.

3. One of our brave artillery units directed concentrated fire on enemy fortifications in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting losses in personnel and equipment, disrupting enemy engineering work, destroying one enemy observation post and killing everyone in it. Also, a rocket emplacement was destroyed and several other positions were set on fire.

4. A 120-mm mortar was destroyed in the northern operational sector.

5. The criminal enemy this afternoon shelled two civilian areas on the outskirts of Basra with heavy artillery.

6. Escaping the tyranny and oppression of the charlatan regime in Iran, more Iranian civilians sought refuge with our forward units in the northern operational sector. They were safely removed to the rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 December 1984

Spokesman Warns of New Attack, Vows Retaliation
JN200851 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0655 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA) — On behalf of the Armed Forces General Command, an Iraqi military spokesman has asserted that any new Iranian aggression against Iraq will be answered with a violent, comprehensive attack that would destroy what remains of Iran's military resources, dismember Iranian concentrations, and render all of Iran's vital centers that are employed for aggressive purposes into vulnerable targets for Iraq's superior weapons. He warned that only the Iranian regime will be responsible for the dire consequences of the situation and for the disasters that will afflict Iran.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman pointed out that Iraq has the absolute right to choose its targets in order to retaliate against aggression and word off the dangers that threaten the security and stability of the region. It also has the right to pick any vital spot inside Iran, along its entire coast, and on all parts of the front in order to prevent the Iranian regime from continuing its aggressive path.

The spokesman added that Iran, which kills POW's and thus holds all norms and conventions in contempt, has encouraged and practiced terrorism, exposed the region's stability and security to danger, and flouted the will of the international community. Iran deserves crushing blows as long as the Iranian regime continues its aggressive behavior.

The spokesman noted that over the past years, Iraq has been shouldering a noble responsibility in warding off evil and preventing evil designs, thus defending its rights and sovereignty as well as international rights by punishing the aggressor for his deeds. He affirmed that the Iraqi blockade of Khark Island and other Iranian ports will continue and will be enhanced, in order to block the inlets that feed and encourage aggression. The spokesman made it clear that this blockade is a legitimate, defensive stand that would paralyze the enemy's intentions and foil its designs against Iraq and the Gulf states.

He reiterated Iraq's warning to all concerned companies and establishments that they keep away from the exclusion zone that has been previously defined by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communiques. The spokesman said: We consider anybody's entry into the exclusion zone to be a voluntary courtship of risks and an intentional action aimed at extending the means of aggression to the Iranian regime. Those who do so must bear the consequences for their involvement in such a situation.

Explaining that Iraq has given the Iranian officials many changes to desist, abandon the path of evil and injustice, and stop bloodshed so that they may rebuild their country, and that Iraq has shown patience toward Iran by responding to all good offices to end the war, the spokesman said that Iraq has the absolute right to retaliate and to destroy and crush the aggressive heads.

Concerning Iran's plans to attack Iraqi territory, the spokesman pointed out that the Iraqi leadership is fully aware of the aggressive Iranian intentions and methods of maneuvering. He said that beginning a new Iranian aggression will spark off a devastating counteraction that would dismember their concentrations and wipe out Iran's remaining military and other resources.

The spokesman expressed Iraq's high appreciation for the rejection by many Iranians, including those within the Iranian Army, of the regime's policy and its continuing aggression, and said that their rejection is known to us. He added that this time they will understand our retaliation as a step on the road to peace and as a means of crushing the aggressive brains in Tehran.

Perpetrators of Baghdad Explosion Arrested
JN201026 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA) — It has been announced here that those responsible for the explosion that occurred in Al-Sa'dun Street in Downtown Baghdad on 12 December have been arrested. A security statement issued today says that security men were able to arrest the stray elements who perpetrated the explosion in which two children and a student were killed, and a number of students wounded. The statement says that those arrested have admitted that they obtained the explosives from the suspect regime in Iran through its ally the Syrian regime.

Reportage on Visit by Sultan of Brunei

Arrives for Talks

JN191242 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Amman — His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei and his wife, Her Royal Highness Mariam, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 3-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur. King Husayn and Queen Nur received the sultan and his wife.

His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah is accompanied by an official delegation including a number of princes, princesses, and senior officials. The official talks between the Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Brunei side, led by His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, will begin at the Basman Palace this evening. The talks will deal with current Arab and Islamic issues and ways to promote bilateral relations.

Received by Husayn

JN191900 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Brunei side, led by His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, began talks at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Prince Muhammad, King Husayn's personal representative; Ahmad 'Ubaydat, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, the court minister; and Staff General al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. On the Brunei side, they were attended by (Penerak Anak Rudim), the chief chamberlain; Brigadier General (Al-Haj Ibno), the sultan's military adviser; Bahrin Abbas, minister of communications and law; Haji Isa, personal adviser to the sultan; and Haji Ali ibn Haji (Dawud), acting permanent secretary of the prime minister's office.

A responsible source at the Royal Hashemite Court announced that King Husayn welcomed the sultan's visit and expressed his pride in the fraternal relations that Jordan is concerned about strengthening in order to serve the two peoples' interests.

He also reviewed the developments in the political situation in the Middle East and the Palestine question, stressing that Jordan's responsibility toward this central issue stems from its direct link with it and with its people who, along with the Jordanian people, are from one familiy. His majesty also explained Jordan's concept aimed at saving Jerusalem and the occupied Arab territories and achieving a just and honorable peace in the region.

King Husayn also stressed the importance of strengthening Islamic solidarity and cooperation among the Arab and Islamic peoples, stressing the need for Iran to respond to the efforts to stop war with Iraq and put an end to fighting between the two Muslim countries. He expressed Jordan's concern about promoting bilateral relations with Brunei and its readiness to strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

The sultan thanked King Husayn for the warm reception he was accorded in Jordan and expressed happiness over this visit, which he considers a good omen for close fraternal relations in all fields. He highly appreciated King Husayn's offer to establish close relations with Brunei and cooperate with it in various fields.

The Jordanian and Brunei sides stressed their determination to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Feted by Husyan

JN192025 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur this evening gave a state dinner in honor of the visiting Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei and his wife, Her Highness Princess Mariam. Speaking at the banquet, his majesty the king praised Brunei for developing an understanding of the central issue facing our Islamic nation, namely, the liberation of Jerusalem. His majesty said the current visit to Jordan by the sultan showed a renewed emphasis of Brunei's spiritual bond and Islamic commitment.

King Husayn declared that the Palestine question and the destiny of the Palestinian people have always been our foremost concern in our capacity both as twin brothers of the people of Palestine and defenders along the longest line of confrontation with Israel. The king said Jordan was seeking a solution to the Middle East problem that restored the occupied Arab territories to their rightful owners and guaranteed them their right to self-determination on their national soil.

King Husayn told the sultan of Brunei he was confident his country would work towards halting the Iran-Iraq war. His majesty was equally sure that the sultan would use his influence and good offices with Iran to comply with the desires of Muslims to see an end to this war.

Replying to King Husayn's toast, his majesty the sultan thanked the king for Jordan's efforts in helping Brunei join the ICO and the United Nations. The sultan said despite the physical distance between the two countries, he was fully informed of Middle East developments. The sultan went on to say that he was fully aware of Jordan's efforts in the interest of the Palestine cause. He said it wwas universally acknowledged that the only solution to the Middle East problem lay in the Palestinians' regaining their rights. These were represented by self-determination and the return of Palestinian land to its rightful owners. The sultan concluded by expressing the hope that the visit here would mark the beginning of cooperation between Brunei and Jordan.

AL-RA'Y Raps Murphy's 'Blackmail,' U.S. Policy

JN200941 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Dec 84 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Unsuccessful Blackmail"]

[Text] It is doubtful whether U.S. envoy Murphy's shuttles in the region will achieve any success. These shuttles are aimed at blackmailing political gains from Lebanon in order to preserve

Israel's self-respect as it withdraws from southern Lebanon. Events in southern Lebanon throughout the past years have removed the barrier of fear there. Consequently, the United States and Israel have lost the card that they used in their political blackmailing. After what they have been through, the Lebanese no longer fear anything. In fact, the fear which dominates the Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon became a card in the hands of the Lebanese resistance due to their heroic and continued operations. However, the Lebanese resistance does not use this card for blackmail purposes, but to liberate the Lebanese territory and will from the aggressors' hegemony.

What confirms Murphy's expected failure is the fact that Israel's attempts to support Murphy's blackmail efforts have failed and led to results contrary to their aim. The crimes perpetrated by the Zionist soldiers recently against the citizens of the peaceful villages in the south have completely failed to bring the card of fear into the Israeli-U.S. hand. In fact, these crimes escalated the Lebanese resistance, increased the fear of the aggressors, and tightened the fist of the resistance on the card which was turned into a card against the Israelis and their U.S. ally.

Thus, the U.S. policy's only option is to understand the proven fact that the card of fear, with which it has always threatened the region through the Israeli aggressors, has been removed completely. Those who are resisting with arms are immune to fear. Consequently, they cannot be threatened or blackmailed. Lebanon is an example of this.

In light of the bitter lesson learned in Lebanon, the U.S. policy should know that Murphy's leaping about the region cannot bring the fruits of aggression on Lebanon as gift to the aggressors who are trapped in the quagmire of the south. Murphy's provocative statements, in which he reiterated rejection of the Arab and international call for an international conference to solve the Palestinian cause, is new evidence that the U.S. policy has not learned anything, and that it still needs a lesson that will shake it and push it to reassess its course in the region.

Perhaps this time the lesson will come from inside the occupied Palestinian territory in the form of the PLO implementing its decision to escalate armed resistance there.

Israeli Claims of Pipeline Pollution Refuted
JN200845 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Dec 84 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — Jordan Wednesday refuted Israel's claims that the waters of Aqaba Gulf will be polluted by exporting Iraqi oil via Aqaba port.

Mr. Anis Mu'ashshir, president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), said that Jordan is a signatory to an agreement for the prevention of pollution in the Red Sea, concluded by the Red Sea littoral countries. Mr. Mu'ashshir said that Jordan is keen on respecting the terms of the agreement which call for maintaining clean shores and preserving marine life in Aqaba Gulf. Jordan has put all activities under strict control to ensure that none of them cause any pollution or damage to nature, Mr. Mu'ashshir added.

His views were published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) gazette in reply to an article published by the Israeli Society for the Conservation of Nature which tried to focus attention on alleged dangers to the Gulf and its marine life from Iraqi oil exported through the port.

The Israeli conservation society published an open letter alleging that the proposed American-backed project to pipe oil from Iraq to Aqaba could be a threat to marine flora and fauna in the Gulf of Aqaba. The letter claimed that any large oil spill would destroy the delicate ecological balance in the Gulf waters.

"The only source of concern and danger to marine life in the region lies in the continuous underwater explosions carried out by the Israeli authorities in the Gulf waters under the pretext of offering protection to the shores against infiltration," Mr. Mu'ashshir replied. "It is these blasts which have been going on four or five times daily over the past years which kill marine life," he added.

Any effort for protecting sea life in the Gulf and preventing pollution should be concentrated on halting these Israeli explosions, Mr. Mu'ashshir pointed out.

He said that the RSCN keeps an office in Aqaba which maintains constant control over all activities in the area. This office operates in cooperation with the Coast Guard, the port authority and the Yarmuk University Marine Science Station with the aim of preventing pollution which is normally caused by ships, the loading and unloading operations at the port as well as by industrial and tourist activities, he said.

The office pays special attention to preserving marine life. Especially the coral reefs under the water surface, Mr. Mu'ashshir added.

Although the risk of pollution is omnipresent in all seas because of maritime transport, the Jordanian Government has taken all necessary measures to stop pollution that destroys marine life and this includes supervision of a pipeline export Iraqi oil from Aqaba, Mr. Mu'ashshir said.

Aqaba, he added, is the only Jordanian outlet to the sea but the city is considered one of the major tourist centres that has been maintained clean and free of pollution. Mr. Mu'ashshir also voiced the society's determination to maintain a clean and unpolluted Aqaba Gulf region, whatever the cost.

Drug Enforcement Chief Sentenced in Smuggling Case
JN191440 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 84 pp 1, 5

[By Lamis K. Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — An unprecedented drug-trafficking plot unfurled Tuesday following the sentencing of 101 Jordanians and various Arab nationals to jail terms ranging from two years to life imprisonment with hard labour. Of the 101 dependents 15 were acquitted and charges against them were dropped.

The Military Court's verdict which was announced Sunday will be subject to approval by the prime minister, who, in his capacity as military governor, can amend any of the sentences.

The smuggling case, described by lawyers as one of the most serious and dangerous cases in the history of Jordan, involved three senior officials of Jordan's Anti-Narcotic Squad, including its former chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Hani al-Qudah. Al-Qudah was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment and fined JD 3,000.

The two other officials were given lesser terms. Major Muhammad Lawzi was sentenced to 10 years in jail and fined JD 10,000 and Captain Sami al-Halasah was jailed for two years and fined JD 50.

An official "list of accusations" obtained by the *JORDAN TIMES* Tuesday reveals that since 1973 till last summer Al-Qudah had successfully used his post to operate and coordinate one of the most successful drugs trafficking networks in the Arab world whose activities reached as far as Australia.

The report also unveiled evidence that "the smugglers gang," with whom Al-Qudah coordinated, was also involved in arms smuggling operations.

According to the information obtained, Al-Qudah used to coordinate with other Arab anti-narcotic squads "to facilitate" the operations of the smugglers' gang.

According to the list of accusations of Case Number 1025 (1984), Al-Qudah used to contact other Arab anti-narcotic squads and tell them that his branch has learnt that drugs will be smuggled through their borders to Jordan but ask them not to stop it since the Jordanian squad "which has been watching the gang for a while" will deal with them on arrival in Jordan.

Through this modus oparandi, Al-Qudah and a large network of Jordanian, Lebanese, Syrian and Saudi smugglers managed to make a considerable amount of money through "exporting" smuggled drugs from Lebanon and Syria. Once the drugs reached Jordan, they were sent to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Greece and Australia.

According to well-informed lawyers in Amman, [it was] the interception of an arms "consignment" by Saudi Arabian border police last summer which unveiled the smuggling network and Al-Qudah's leading role in its operations.

Apparently, one of the smugglers, who was condemned to death in Saudi Arabia, confessed, prior to his execution, on Al-Qudah's complicity.

The discovery, according to informed sources, was going to cause a "diplomatic crisis" between Saudi Arabia and Jordan but the government moved swiftly to apprehend the culprits and launched a comprehensive investigation into the affair.

The findings of the investigation were startling and revealed that Al-Qudah had a dual role in that of a brilliant mastermind behind the smuggling operations — that of "honest and effective" chief of Jordan's Anti-Narcotic Squad. Al-Qudah also managed to make good money by playing both roles successfully, according to details disclosed in the list of accusations.

Al-Qudah used to ask Jordanian and foreign drug dealers to smuggle drugs to Jordan while he would make the necessary "arrangements and contacts" with the anti-narcotic squads in the countries of origin to facilitate the operation, the list of accusations said. After the arrival of the consignment in Jordan, Al-Qudah would "buy" the merchandise instead of arresting the smugglers and confiscating the drugs.

To cover his actions he used to sell the merchandise through his collaborators, collect the money and then officially arrest the drug smugglers.

"Exporting" drugs abroad brought more profit for Al-Qudah because it enabled him to make his money through legal means. The list of accusations explains that after "exporting" the merchandise and selling it, after collecting the money, Al-Qudah used to tip off anti-narcotic squads about the consignments and collect a reward for his "honest" tip off.

The list of accusations, which includes detailed incidents of recent drug and arms smuggling, indicates that Al-Qudah was not directly involved in arms trafficking. Moreover, the charges against Al-Qudah, which ranged from accepting bribery to embezzlement and drug trafficking, do not include smuggling or possession of arms. But the cases cited in the list indicate that leading members of the smuggling gang, particularly, Khalaf al-Fayiz, who has coordinated most of the drug trafficking operations with Al-Qudah, were found guilty of smuggling guns and revolvers.

Al-Fayiz was sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment and a fine of JD 3,000

According to the Military Court verdict, the following were sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined JD 3,000 each:

Nazmi Darwish al-Bayk, Walid Sari 'Abdallah, 'Abdallah Qasim Sulayman "Al-Kalaz," Ka'id Ahmad Baryush, Barakat Muflih Qutayfan, Muhammad al-Bashabishah, Muhmud Marashidah, Sa'id al-Hani, Hasan Abu Jama'ah, Khalid 'Ayid al-Nadir, 'Adnan Sultan, and Mut'ib al-Fayiz.

The following were sentenced to eight years in prison and fined with various amounts (in brackets):

Salim Salim Shayhah (JD 3,000), Muhammad Khalid Abu Kas (JD 3,000), Badawi al-Jabali (JD 3,000), 'Isa al-Rashdan (JD 3,000), Fawwaz al-Fayiz (no fine), and Fayiz 'Akfali (no fine).

Other sentences were passed on the following:

Sami al-Halasah — two years and JD 50 fine; Khalaf Muhammad al-Fayiz — 15 years and JD 3,000 Fine; Ahmad Yusuf al-Rifa'i — four years and JD 666 fine; Salim Yasin — three years and JD 5,000 fine; Yasin Muwaffaq Yasin — three years and JD 15,000 fine; Zuhayr Diraniyah — one year; Muhamud Barghuti — seven and a half years; Samir Jawza' — five years and 'Ismat abu al-Sa'ud — three years and JD 15,000 fine.

The following were sentenced in absentia:

Yusuf al-Ma'ani — 15 years with hard labour; Muhammad al-Ma'ani — 15 years with hard labour; Muhammad Khattab — 15 years with hard labour.

The following were named outlaws and sentenced as under:

Ahmad Abu Rabi' — life term with hard labor and JD 5,000 fine; Jihad al-Makahdimah — life term and JD 5,000 fine; Ghassan Tahir — 15 years and JD 3,000 fine; Musa Mu'ashshir — life term with hard labour; Muslih Kayyali — life term and JD 5,000 fine; Khalid Hurani — life term and JD 5,000 fine; Samir Khamis — life term with hard labour; 'Abd al-Majid al-Mahadin — life term with hard labour and JD 5,000 fine; Muhammad al-Zu'bi — life term with hard labour; 'Abdallah Salih Hurani — life term with hard labour; 'Abd al-Fattah al-'Amayirah — life term with hard labour; and Muhammad 'Isawi — life term with hard labour and JD 5,000 fine.

Fu'ad al-Shaykh, a fugitive from justice for 15 years, was fined JD 3,000.

The following were found innocent and acquitted: Majid al-Qaysi, 'Ali al-Ka'abini, 'Abd Rabbuh Hubaysh, 'Azzam al-Kasji, Kamil Ghurbali, Anwar al-Zu'bi, Ghazi al-Bashabishah, Ahmad al-Zu'bi, Muhammad al-Khaza'ili, Ibrahim Bashabishah, Ibrahim al-Zu'bi, and Muhammad Zabin.

Charges were dropped against Mahmud Abu Matar and Hamad Khattab.

The verdict said the name of Muhammad Abu 'Uways was mentioned in the case by mistake.

Twelve Saudi nationals were sentenced to life with JD 5,000 fine each. They are:

Muhammad al-Huwayti, Ibrahim Salamah, Muhammad al-'Ashshi, 'Abdallah al-Usul, Muhammad ibn 'Awad, 'Abd al-Ma'ruf Shalabi, Ibrahim al-'Aturi, Naythan al-Harbi, Ahmad al-'Atawi, Muhammad al-'Atawi, Hamid Harbi and Salamah al-'Atawi.

Four Egyptians were also sentenced for life with hard labour and a fine of JD 5,000 each. They are:

Muhammad Faysal, Ahmad Zayn al-Din, 'Alim Margad, and the only woman convicted in the case, Hala 'Allam.

Thirteen Lebanese were sentenced for life with a fine of JD 5,000 each. [Amman *AR-RA'Y* of 18 December lists them on page 23 as follows: Musharraf Sharif, Hassan Sharif, Ghalib Sharif, Badawi Sharif, Nawwaf Sharif, Dikran Abu Hayyan, Ibrahim Abu Dabwan, Ghazi Juju, George Samahah, 'Abd al-Hamid al-Shamma', Jamil al-Dishah, Dhib Abu Wahidi, Rifa'i Jum'ah, and Khashuq Na'ilyan.]

Six Syrians were sentenced for life with hard labour and a fine of JD 5,000 each. [Amman *AL-RA'Y* of 18 December lists them on page 23 as follows: Ghazi Abu Nut, Muhammad al-Jammal, Najih 'Ali al-Mahamid, Shukri Abu Nubut, 'Arif Hamadi, and 'Ismat Sha'ban].

11th Session of Al-Naqurah Talks Begins

NC200956 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Dispatch from Al-Naqurah by NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent Antoine 'Awn on 20 December — recorded]

[Excerpt] At approximately 1010 today, the morning session of the 11th round of Lebanese-Israeli military talks began in Al-Naqurah.

The head of the Lebanese delegation, Brigadier General Muhammad al-Hajj, affirmed to reporters that the Lebanese delegation is coming to the talks with a positive attitude, as usual. He expressed the hope that today's round will not be the last, as the other side has said. He expressed his optimism, pointing out that Lebanon's request is for the legitimate Army to reach Al-Naqurah, Rumaysh, Mays al-Jabal, and other border villages because the Army is a symbol of dignity. Brig Gen al-Hajj called for faith and determination to prevail because the dark cloud will inevitably disappear.

Asked whether the talks will be suspended if they fail, Brig Gen al-Hajj said: I did not say this; they [the Israelis] said it.

Israeli delegation head 'Amos Gilbo'a affirmed that his delegation is coming to the talks with a positive attitude, while it is the Lebanese delegation which creates obstacles, as he claimed.

Asked about the reported Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon if the negotiations stop, Gilbo'a apologized and urged the reporters to ask this question to the sources of this report.

Regarding Israeli intervention in Iqlim al-Kharrub, the head of the Israeli delegation denied such intervention, saying that the Israeli forces' movement into the area is only for the purpose of capturing infiltrators of the Ahmad Jibril group and others.

The NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY has learned from a Lebanese military source that the Israeli delegation will present new ideas today to stimulate the talks, and that the Lebanese delegation will listen to these ideas.

Regarding the threat to withdraw if the talks fail, the Lebanese source maintained that this is an Israeli affair, and Israel alone will bear the consequences of such action. The responsibility for the suspension of the negotiations will be borne by Israel in the eyes of the international community.

Al-Turk, Aime Discuss Talks

NC191237 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Ministry Secretary General Fu'ad al-Turk today discussed with Jean-Claude Aime, assistant deputy UN secretary general for political affairs, the latest information concerning the Lebanese-Israeli military talks in Al-Naqurah and the current situation in the south in light of the Israeli practices against some southern villages.

Karami Statement Following Meeting With Murphy

NC191833 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami received U.S. envoy Richard Murphy this evening; the meeting ended at 1830. On emerging from the B'abda Palace, Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Karami] We received Mr Murphy and listened to the information he provided us, the result of his contacts with Israel and Syria since our last meeting with him. In truth, I see no great change in Israel's stand. It continues to ask Lebanon to present ideas and proposals. I don't know what they expect from us. We have defined the principles that constitute the foundation of our talks in Al-Naqurah; whoever takes such principles as a basis cannot possibly renounce them, for they involve sovereignty, the attainment of security for the homeland and our citizens in the face of this evil occupation, and cessation of the abnormal actions being committed against our kinfolk and citizens, who are subject to the ugliest forms of this despicable occupation.

We demand an unconditional and complete withdrawal, in accordance with the armistice agreement and the security council resolutions, which we believe, serve our interests and can secure our national sovereignty and territory.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] We are continuing the discussions and attending the sessions in the hope that Lebanon's position will be understood and that the higher interests we are seeking will be fulfilled. We cannot possibly agree to undertake the security of northern Israel or to act as a gendarme to defend such things. This does not concern us at all. It suffices that we are working to ensure security in the south for our kinfolk and citizens. In my opinion, this serves all who truly seek security and peace.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the U.S. stand on what is taking place in [words indistinct]?

[Karami] We listen to the Americans, who convey the stands held by others. We also debate our own views and positions with the United States. We hope that the Americans will one day play a role that will enable them to put an end to the present situation.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Karami] I have said that he conveyed Israel's position and requests. This proves that the Americans continue their efforts to bring views closer together. [end recording]

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Asad Discuss Security Problems

NC192105 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] A telephone conversation took place tonight between President Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz al-

Asad, during which they discussed the current situation and problems hindering the implementation of the security plan.

Syrian Officer Reportedly Brings 'Important' Message

NC200710 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of intelligence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, yesterday visited Beirut and met with a number of officials. He discussed with them the outcome of the government's contacts with the Progressive Socialist Party concerning the coastal plan and the outcome of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's mission. It has been learned that Brig Gen Kan'an carried an important message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Al-Jumayyil. The contents of the message have been kept secret; however, the message was said to contain practical and positive ideas.

Karami, Birri View Security Plan, Israeli Withdrawal

Karami on Security Plan

NC191236 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1157 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] We learned a short while ago that today's Cabinet session has ended. Prime Minister Rashid Karami made a statement after the session in which he said that the Cabinet has agreed in principle that the implementation of the coastal security plan will take place after a meeting, to be held at a later date, with a Syrian military delegation. Prime Minister Karami's statement follows:

[Begin recording][Karami] The Cabinet was briefed by the Army commander and the chief of staff about the final draft of the security plan. The Cabinet agreed in principle that the implementation [of the security plan] will take place after a meeting with a Syrian military delegation, as was previously agreed upon in Bikfayya.

[Unidentified reporter] When will the Syrian military delegation arrive, Mr Prime Minister?

[Karami] The date will be set following contacts.

[Reporter] Are there contacts taking place to at least halt the current military escalation?

[Karami] There is no doubt that contacts will continue for this purpose, because no one is happy about such flareups for which we pay in further damage and blood.

[Reporter] Is there anything new about the Al-Naqurah talks in light of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's impending visit to Beirut?

[Karami] We are awaiting the arrival of the U.S. envoy to learn the latest developments regarding the question of the comprehensive and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, do you have any comment on the Israeli prime minister's statement yesterday regarding a total unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Karami] Actually I do not understand the meaning of such statements. To us there is no option other than total withdrawal. Are we required to accept Israel's continued presence? If some consider this as a threat, we accept the threat and request total withdrawal even on a unilateral basis. [end recording]

Karami Satisfied With Deployment

NC201023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has expressed his satisfaction with the implementation of the security plan in Tripoli. He expressed the hope that the security plan will cover all Lebanon. He affirmed that he has not been informed of any incident that hindered the implementaiton of the plan.

Prime Minister Karami has kept in constant touch with the political, security, and military leaderships in the north and followed up the progress of the implementation of the security plan in Tripoli. He gave his instructions regarding the need to deal with matters in a manner satisfactory to all.

Birri Calls Plan 'Political'

NC200717 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Minister Nabih Birri has described the coastal plan as a political plan and not security plan. He explained what had happened regarding the security plan in light of the meetings held among the parties concerned and how agreement about the plan was reached. No one gave us the feeling that there was any objection to the plan, he said.

Minister Birri pointed out that Minister Junblatt had some observations. However, we have reached an understanding with him and with Minister al-Huss. He expressed his approval following minor amendments introduced to the plan. These amendments pertain to the establishment of the force's command headquarters in Al-Jiyah instead of Al-Sa'diyat and the extension of the 1st Brigade's deployment from Khaldah to Al-Sa'diyah instead of up to Al-Damur.

He added: On the basis of our conviction and the situation along the coastal highway, we preferred Al-Jiyah as the headquarters of the force's command for the basic reason that the port and the power station are located in this town, and thus the presence of the force's command headquarters there will ensure their protection, and will prevent the use of the port for purposes that would reflect negatively on the implementation of the plan.

Minister Birri said: We are going to the south on the basis of a political agreement.

A meeting was held yesterday between Ministers Birri and Junblatt in the presence of former Minister Marwan Hamadah.

The two ministers discussed recent developments. Minister Birri briefed Minister Junblatt on the discussions that took place during the Cabinet session. Minister Junblatt, in turn, briefed Minister Birri on the outcome of the meetings between the representatives of the regime and the Progressive Socialist Party. A source close to the two ministers said that there was an identity of views between them.

A source close to Minister Junblatt said that all the parties have agreed in principle to implement the coastal plan, but they want Syrian sponsorship for this plan to ensure its success. The source pointed out that local contacts will be increased and that the suspension of Murphy's mission during the holidays will not affect the plan. The parties concerned are working for a relaxation in the situation with major Syrian support.

Units Deploy in Tripoli

NC200738 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Radio correspondent telephone dispatch from Tripoli on 20 December — recorded]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, which has waited 10 years for this day, this morning began its march on the road to stability and security. The Lebanese Army has been assuming its security tasks in the city since 0400 today in accordance with the security plan.

The 2d Brigade, under the command of Colonel Yahya Ra'd and under the supervision of Colonel Faruq Agha, assistant commander of the northern military region, and the command officers, carried out the deployment in the city without any obstacles. The brigade occupied the appointed positions, from the Al-Hurayshah area in the south up to the military beach at the approach to Al-Minya in the north.

During a tour we made of the city this morning, everything was quiet. Gunmen have disappeared from the streets. Army personnel manning roadblocks check the papers of vehicles and passengers. Everything appears normal.

Swedish Special Envoy Arrives in Beirut

NC191755 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] (Johann Carlton), special envoy from the Swedish prime minister, arrived at Beirut International Airport from Sweden via London this afternoon on a visit to Lebanon within a tour of the area. The special envoy will meet with Prime Minister Karami and a number of other ministers and functionaries.

Lebanese Forces, Islamic Movement Release Detainees

NC191304 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] As a result of last night's meeting at the Army Command in Al-Yarzi between representatives of the Lebanese Forces and the Islamic Unification Movement, an agreement was reached to release all the detained and kidnapped persons in the north. Thus, Samir Ahmad Subhiyah and Mustafa Tawfiq 'Alamaddin were released today.

Islamic Movement Desecrates Churches in Tripoli

NC200706 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] According to reports from the north, Islamic Unification Movement gunmen continued their attacks against Christian shrines in Tripoli this week. They had previously imposed the teaching of the Islam in Christian schools.

The movement's gunmen entered the Greek Orthodox Saint Nicholas Church during mass last week. They stopped the mass and uttered vulgar expressions. They threatened the worshippers and gave them 1 week to remove the pictures of saints and icons from inside the church.

Other gunmen entered the Maronite Saint Michael's Church, rifled its contents, and stole some precious sacred things. Other gunmen then destroyed the statue of Virgin Mary in the hall of the friars school in Al-Zahiriyah.

The Unification Movement's flag was raised over the roof of Saint Marun Church in Tripoli. A warning was given not to remove the flag, which is still flying. Movement members prevented persons marching in a funeral in the Al-Zahiriyah area from carrying crosses.

Al-Asad Receives Al-Jumayyil's Telephone Call
JN201125 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus —President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil this morning. They exchanged opinions on matters of common concern.

Khaddam Receives U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy
JN191605 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of sate for Near Eastern affairs, and the delegation accompanying him at 1040 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks revolved around issues concerning the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

Khaddam affirmed that Syria still adheres to its position of supporting fraternal Lebanon in its endeavor to expel the aggressive Israeli forces from its territory without delay, conditions, or political and military gains according to this Security Council's resolutions concerning Lebanon. He said Syria stands by Lebanon in its endeavor to establish its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

SANA Editor Denies Involvement in Baghdad Blast
JN201050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus — SANA's political editor has commented on the Iraqi regime's latest lie issued yesterday in which it alleges that Syria is connected with the car explosion that occurred in Baghdad. SANA's political editor has denied this and asserted that Syria, which is preoccupied by the Arab nation's battle against its enemies, will not be harmed or preoccupied by such false accusations.

Coalition Crisis Over; SHAS, NRP Sign Agreement

TA200512 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The coalition crisis is over. SHAS will receive the interior affairs portfolio and the National Religious Party [NRP] will be given the religious affairs portfolio. In a 4-hour meeting held last night at the education minister's office in Jerusalem, the representatives of the Likud, the Alignment, the NRP, and SHAS signed the distribution agreement.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissovitz reports that at the end of the meeting Minister Peretz of SHAS said he would not make any personnel changes in the Interior Ministry. Ministers Navon and Levi said we should now dedicate our time to the difficult tasks the government must tackle.

Peres Comments

TA201209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the dispute and crisis regarding the religious affairs portfolio was, as he phrased it, within the irrational dimension of the government's existence. Peres believes that despite the strong words used, there is still a foundation for cooperation within the coalition. These remarks were made in the course of a tour the prime minister is making today in Nahariyya, and our correspondent Hayim Hecht has been accompanying him.

[Begin recording] [Peres] Also in the life of a government there are irrational issues. In my opinion, this latter issue belongs more within the irrational dimension than within the rational one. What actually happened is that last Tuesday all the parties reached an agreement and were supposed to submit the matter to the Knesset. That same day I even summoned the Cabinet for a session on Wednesday. I do not know what made SHAS change its position at the last minute. Later, on Saturday evening, this happened yet once again. It was clear to me that the matter in dispute was actually minor and soluble. However, I would like to point out that even if it was an irrational crisis, it was solved in a rational manner and, gladly enough, it did not last too long and did not require too much attention. I am sorry about some strong words uttered yesterday; they were unnecessary. However, every yesterday is followed by a tomorrow, and I hope that everything will be all right.

[Hecht] You are here on an agricultural tour. Perhaps we should describe it in agricultural terms: Likud climbed up a high tree and later realized that you are holding the trump cards and it was forced to climb down. Could it be described in such terms?

[Peres] No, I do not consider it a card game. I really and truly want the national unity government to survive. I think this is vital to the country and the economy today. We are experiencing a very difficult period. After hearing the descriptions during our tour today, you know there is a small gap between a continuation of the current situation and the possibility of creating renewed momentum. I think we should, first and foremost, deal with the important matters. [end recording]

Peres Interviewed on Lebanon, U.S. Aid

TA181455 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Dec 84 p 9

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Yo'el Marcus; "over the weekend" — place not given]

[Text] The media have already favorably covered the 100 days of grace of the national unity government, although officially the 100 days will not be over until 21 December. The greatest test the prime minister will face, however, can be expected in the month following these 100 days. In that period Shim'on Peres will have to get the Cabinet's approval on a withdrawal from Lebanon and choose an economic plan (from the three plans submitted to him), all of which have drastic measures. Over the weekend I had a 2-hour talk with Peres on this fateful month, on the decisions he is expected to make, and on what will happen after the decisions are made. Following are a selection of his statements on the main points of interest to the country.

On a withdrawal from Lebanon: If the efforts to reach a political-military arrangement with Lebanon and Syria via the United States do not bear fruit, as has become clear these days (if there is no last minute breakthrough), "I am in favor of an IDF withdrawal to the international border. I mean a full withdrawal with the risks it implies. I do not like half measures and interim solutions." This means that the IDF will return to its position prior to the Lebanese war, but with one difference: This time the southern Lebanese area will be larger than in Haddad's days. Aside from the decision on the economy, this is the most difficult decision to be made by the prime minister. Is it possible the Cabinet will approve it? "There is a thirst for political conflicts; the question is how to present the issue in a logical manner. It is possible that today there is no one who will dispute this point."

On dollarization (or its equivalents): "We have today three economic plans, one of which will be selected soon." Referring to the discussion over whether a drastic or a gradual plan should be adopted, Peres says that "classic rules of economics are suitable for a classic country, but we are not a classic country." Therefore, he prefers drastic steps in the framework of a gradual, comprehensive plan, skipping the components that might lead to mass unemployment. "The best economists are the citizens, and economic rehabilitation is impossible without soothing the public and without receiving its approval and cooperation. Therefore, the plan adopted by the Cabinet must be comprehensive and not overleak any element, or do one thing on account of another. The issue of wages should be examined before a devaluation takes effect. There should be an understanding with the Histadrut and a broad popular consensus. I do not believe in administrative measures...." "It is our aim to return the economy to where it was in 1982. The package deal will not be reimplemented in its present form, but in a different way so as to enable the restoration of economic health." Peres mentions three elements that should be combined: a reasonable rate of exchange, a genuine budget cut, and stable wages. "To reach these goals, our currency should be linked to a solid basis: the dollar, patam accounts [bank deposits linked to foreign currency], and the currency basket." One could infer from his statements that dollarization under a different name might be one of the main components of the plan that will be selected.

On his meeting with former finance minister Aridor: "I do not know what people want from me. I do not publish my schedule, as the U.S. President does. The meeting was not a secret; it was held in my office in the Knesset. Aridor is not stupid, and I am allowed to hear what he has to say. I particularly wanted to know the U.S. reaction and what exactly they told him when he told them of his dollarization plan."

On inflation: "This month we were still feeling last month's effect. Next month the index will go down to 10 percent. Within a year we will have an annual inflation rate of 10 percent." Annually or monthly? "No, not monthly, but 10 percent annually. That would be a normal situation. Our men have no doubt that we will reach this."

On U.S. conditions for aid: Peres says it is not true that the United States is making an increase in financial aid conditional on drastic cuts in Israel. "It is true that Shultz sent us a message out of friendship and genuine concern, in which he wanted to know — prior to discussing aid — what we are doing to restore our economy. The U.S. Administration thinks that the government's involvement is too great and would like us to leave the economy more open to free enterprise. They also do not understand the matter of linkage. We have explained to them that the private sector is not in a position to undertake economic rehabilitation by itself, and as for the linkage system, we have lived with it for the last 35 years." Peres has no doubt of U.S. readiness to increase its aid to Israel "because we are going to surprise them by our decision on an economic plan."

On economic shock therapy: "I do not champion drastic economic steps. It is true that drastic steps shorten the time, but if they fail, you are left with many problems. Therefore, I prefer a comprehensive plan — including drastic steps — which has maximum popular support."

On contacts with Husayn: Peres bitterly complains that it is difficult, nearly impossible, to pursue quiet diplomacy in Israel; it is difficult to keep anything secret because everything is leaked. After hearing these opening remarks, I did not expect to hear him confirm that he has resumed his meetings with Husayn (begun when he was defense minister) and that he has maintained a detailed correspondence with King Husayn. Nevertheless, it is clear that things are moving under the surface. "I deny the claim that the government was established to resolve the economic problems and deal with the Lebanese issue alone. Who decided this and where is it written down?" Peres remarked that he is the first prime minister to whom Husayn has paid many compliments, and he believes that there are new nuances in the distinction Husayn made when he said "peace in exchange for territory and complete peace in exchange for complete territory." From Husayn's viewpoint, some changes have taken place: the upcoming withdrawal from Lebanon, the freeze on new settlements, the improvement in the quality of life for residents of the territories, and Israel's effort to increase the pro-Jordanian orientation of West Bank inhabitants.

Peres discloses that the main aim of his visit to Western Europe was to change the pro-PLO attitude into a pro-Husayn attitude. All this forms the basis of a dialogue, whether this is overt or covert; there is something to talk about. Even though Peres is extremely cautious in his words and makes do with hints, it is clear that he views his "political opening move" as one of his main goals. The question is whether the Likud will cooperate to achieve this goal when the time comes. That is the question indeed.

On cuts in the state budget, Peres says that he is the first prime minister to become so deeply involved in the activities of his finance minister and to give him full support. He will not, however, support a $1 billion cut in the defense budget. "Professors are demanding a cut of $2 or $3 billion, but the question is from what? This year we are consuming our capital rather than the interest. From a state budget of approximately $20 billion, only $10 billion remains, after deducing debt servicing and subsidy payments ($1.6 billion). Of this sum, $4.25 billion goes to the defense budget. All government outlays have to be paid from the remaining $5.5 billion [as published]. We intended to save $1 billion by freezing settlements, but it appears that this is not so easy. These budgets are distributed in such a way that it is difficult to point at a $1 billion cut, despite the fact that no new settlements have been established. It is also not clear how the withdrawal from Lebanon will affect the current budget." But Peres believes that despite the fact that the defense budget cut will not exceed $500 million, the purpose is to cut government outlays by $1.5 billion. Is this possible? "Certainly, we will attain this within 1 year."

On the Histadrut election: Peres believes that he has succeeded in changing the apocalyptic atmosphere prevailing in Israel into an atmosphere that everything can be settled. "There are professors who are not satisfied. But a country is not an economics course. For example, there is no Histadrut election in an economics course...." "I am against postponing the Histadrut election, and I do not believe that we will do poorly. It is impossible to make an economic move while thinking all the time how this will affect the Histadrut election. It is better to hold it on time and get it over with."

On electricity-producing reactors: "I do not understand the criticism over the nuclear reactors. To date, no one has wanted to sell them to us; this is the first time that we have an agreement in principle for such a deal. I did not think it was necessary to let the United States in on it from the outset, so as not to invite opposition. As for the price and profitability: Within the next 10 years we need two power stations anyway. Each of them will cost approximately $1 billion, whether this is a nuclear or a conventional power station. Now that we have someone willing to sell this to us, experts will look into the profitability of the purchase and which type is preferable. What is so bad about that?"

On the SHAS dispute: "It is difficult to assess the dynamics within the Likud if the SHAS issue is not settled. I, for one, have done everything in my power — including a visit to the Council of Torah Scholars — so as not to provide grounds for those Likud members who want to dissolve the Cabinet." Although Peres is cautious in making predictions, he does not believe that SHAS' departure — if it indeed leaves the government — will bring

about a collapse of the government. None of the coalition partners is interested in a collapse, but for internal reasons everyone wants to prove that he is "holier than thou." "The coalition will survive, for there is no alternative. If there was a narrow government led by us, we would now be going through hell."

Peres Interviewed on Regional, International Issues

PM191524 Paris LE FIGARO in French 14 Dec 84 p 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Patrick Wajsman — date and place not given]

[Text] Patrick Wajsman: When he was secretary of state, General Haig advocated a "strategic consensus" between the United States, Israel, and the moderate Arab states. Are you in favor of such an idea?

Shim'on Peres: Personally, I am prepared to implement such strategic coordination. The idea does not shock me at all. But I very much doubt that the Arabs are prepared to accept it before solutions have been found to the main quarrels between us.

Patrick Wajsman: What precisely are the matters you intend to tackle as priorities?

Shim'on Peres: There are four matters which we want to settle at the same time:

1. I want to end the Lebanon conflict by concluding — if possible — a political agreement with the Syrians and a military agreement with the Lebanese.

2. I would like to improve our relations with Egypt.

3. I am in favor of starting real dialogue with King Husayn.

4. I would like to make the "Jordanian option" credible to the Palestinians on the West Bank.

Patrick Wajsman: Well, let us talk about Lebanon first. The Israeli forces are prepared to withdraw while the Syrian troops are still physically present on Lebanese territory. Is this imbalance not shocking?

Shim'on Peres: I am not naive, and I am in a good position to know that the Syrians have always been moderate tactically but very tough strategically. Moreover, I am naturally aware of the prominent place which Lebanon has always had in the Damascus regime's dreams of "greater Syria." This being so, it is necessary to be realistic and understand what Lebanese policy in Syria represents today.

First, the Syrian presence in Lebanon costs General Hafiz al-Asad $1 million every day. That is a great deal.

Second, it is probable that the Syrians are seeking a political victory in Lebanon which would enable them to improve their image in the Arab world, rather than a direct territorial gain.

Finally, the Lebanese adventure has the effect of dividing the Syrian military potential into two: Part of the Syrian forces are on the Lebanon front, the other on the Golan front. That is uncomfortable.

For all these reasons I do not think we can count on a permanent physical Syrian presence in Lebanon.

Patrick Wajsman: Would you go so far as to say that this division of the Syrian military potential between two fronts objectively plays into Israel's hands?

Shim'on Peres: That question absorbs Israeli strategists, but I think it is entirely theoretical.

Patrick Wajsman: I do not think it is really theoretical for the Lebanese!

Shim'on Peres: I will simply say that I prefer the Syrians to leave Lebanon than stay. And this is true even if the gathering of Syrian forces on the Golan front alone is objectively an additional threat to Israel's security. Is that clear enough?

Patrick Wajsman: Do you think it is conceivable to restore the Golan Heights to the Syrians in the near future?

Shim'on Peres: Not in the near future.

Patrick Wajsman: Do you think war with Syria is inevitable sooner or later?

Shim'on Peres: Only peace is inevitable.

The Jordanian Option

Patrick Wajsman: Let us turn to the Palestinian problem, if you do not mind. Is it conceivable that Israel might agree to negotiate with the PLO one day?

Shim'on Peres: With the Palestinians, yes. Never with the PLO.

Patrick Wajsman: But would you change your mind if the PLO abandoned terrorism and publicly repudiated its charter (which, I recall, makes provision for the physical destruction of the Jewish state)?

Shim'on Peres: In that case it would no longer be the PLO. Here too we are counting our chickens before they hatch....

Patrick Wajsman: Well, let us be specific. Are you prepared to accept a Palestinian state on the West Bank, not dominated by the PLO but enjoying all the attributes of state sovereignty?

Shim'on Peres: No, I rule out this hypothesis, because, if an independent Palestinian state was established on the West Bank, that state would necessarily have an army. We are not prepared to accept a Palestinian army at the gates of Jerusalem.

I must add that this new state situated between Jordan and Israel could not easily welcome all the Palestinians scattered

throughout the Middle East; its creation could therefore only perpetuate the "Palestinian question."

That is why I have always thought that the real solution would lie in a Jordanian-Palestinian structure. It would be a federal structure in which the West Bank would remain permanently demilitarized. In fact, we cannot accept the possibility of an Arab army crossing the Jordan.

Patrick Wajsman: Do you seriously think that King Husayn could agree to the demilitarization of the West Bank?

Shim'on Peres: Why not? We have the same type of agreement with the Egyptians in the Sinai!

Patrick Wajsman: And would the inhabitants of the West Bank accept it? Are they not much more attracted by the "PLO solution" than by this "Jordanian option" you advocate?

Shim'on Peres: I sincerely believe that every West Bank Arab is torn, deep down inside, between these two options. It is up to us to persuade them to make the right choice.

Patrick Wajsman: Let us suppose your plan succeeds and that a Jordanian-Palestinian structure is formed. Do you think the Israelis should maintain a military presence on the West Bank?

Shim'on Peres: Yes. In my view Israel should continue to have military control over the territory and the Arabs should have administrative control.

Patrick Wajsman: In this context should the Israelli colonies be dismantled?

Shim'on Peres: In a context of peace there can perfectly well be Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Are there not Arab settlements in Israel? Why should what is valid in one direction not be valid in the other? But once again we must not put the cart before the horse. The main thing is to start negotiations.

Patrick Wajsman: You are right, Prime Minister. But what interlocutors would you accept and what preconditions will you set?

Shim'on Peres: As regards interlocutors, it is very simple: We accept the Jordanians completely and unreservedly, but we may also envisage having discussions with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. I mean with a Jordanian delegation which would include Palestinian leaders living on the West Bank. Aside from that we do not pose any preconditions at all.

Patrick Wajsman: Do you think it desirable for the USSR to be involved in a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict?

Shim'on Peres: Definitely not. If we want to make concessions to the Arabs to achieve a settlement we will do it directly. We do not need to "pay commission" to the Soviets for that! Of course, when we have finished negotiating with the Arabs and have achieved a settlement, Soviet diplomats will still be able to take part in the ceremony closing the negotiations if they wish! But no more than that....

A Free Hand

Patrick Wajsman: Prime Minister, I would like you to tell me your position on the Iran-Iraq war. Would you prefer an Iranian or an Iraqi victory? Do you want the conflict to continue or the fighting to stop?

Shim'on Peres: We are completely foreign to this conflict and will remain so. But I personally think that the most serious threat to the whole region is Shi'ite fundamentalism. This Shi'ite revolution is the only religious revolution of our century, and its effects may be devastating.

Patrick Wajsman: So you want an Iraqi victory....

Shim'on Peres: No, it is not my problem. I want an ideological defeat of Iranian Shi'ism. That is all.

Patrick Wajsman: One last question. In the present context, what hypothetical events would justify an Israeli military reaction?

Shim'on Peres: There are several: a direct attack on us, of course, but also an attempt to block our air or sea communications. I would like to add that we are not prepared to allow Israel's security to be threatened from southern Lebanon either. If that were to happen again we would not remain passive. In short, we are keeping a free hand.

Nonetheless, I do not intend to describe to you how we might react to situations which do not exist at present. In my view, only the facts count. The rest is fiction or psychoanalysis.

Minister Shamir Comments on Political Situation

TA192040 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir interviewed on Moqed Program by Nisim Mish'al, Yisra'el Segal, and Shim'on Schiffer — live]

[Excerpts] [Mish'al] Good evening and happy holiday. The national unity government is now facing the greatest crisis since its establishment. Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir described the situation last night as very grave. The Likud has granted an extension of 48 hours to the Alignment to find a solution to the SHAS crisis. The Moqed Program's guest this evening is Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Here with me in the studio are Shim'on Schiffer, the Qol Yisra'el [Voice of Israel] political correspondent, and my colleague Yisra'el Segal. Good evening, sir.

[Shamir] Good evening and happy Chanuka.

[Segal] Mr Shamir, what is actually happening now that you are siding with a religious party — SHAS, a non-Zionist party — and you yourselves are forcing the NRP to return to the Alignment, to that historic pact? What we are now witnessing is the creation of new political groups.

[Shamir] We are not causing this. After all, all the history before the government was established is well known. SHAS at once stood at our side, went along with us loyally, adhered to us almost without conditions. Despite having worked jointly with us for 7 years — and I think that the NRP enjoyed that cooperation — the NRP has not gone with us.

[Segal] Sir, today you even went so far as to say that there were those among the Alignment ministers who want to be foreign ministers and to hold other posts. In your opinion, is what we have here a planned move by the Alignment, that is, do they want it to lead to the dissolution of the government?

[Shamir] I did not say, by the way, among the Alignment ministers, I said there are ministers...

[Segal, interrupting] Fine, but I assume you were not talking about Likud ministers.

[Shamir] Of course, there are ministers — but I will not say that there is some sort of common, general conspiracy by the Alignment — and I am not going into that. I am referring to facts and I know that there are people inside the government who, for different reasons, want this government to be dissolved because of interests, because of aims, because of their views...

[Mish'al, interrupting] Perhaps, on this matter, you could provide details. I do not understand exactly what you mean...

[Segal, interrupting] What interests?

[Shamir] I am not prepared to go into details, because, after all, these are assumptions. But, I assume that there are ministers — I also know this — who do not look favorably on the fact that the Likud is sitting together with the Alignment in a government and, by doing so, is preventing this government from doing things they would like it to do.

[Mish'al] For instance?

[Shamir] For instance, to cut ourselves off from Judaea and Samaria. For instance, to give up Tabah within a day, within a night. For instance, to stop the settlement process. For instance, to get out of Lebanon without any conditions.

[Segal] Are there actual things, sir?

[Shamir] There are.

[Segal] Are these things actual?

[Shamir] In my view, no, as long as there is a national unity government these things are not actual...

[Segal, interrupting] And if there is not?

[Shamir] And if there is not, there is a question mark.

[Segal] I assume, sir, you are speaking on the basis of information.

[Shamir] I am expressing fears.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, perhaps I will ask another question. There are objective conditions in the political system, in any political system. If you, for example, do not succeed after 3 months in making two important appointments — deputy defense minister and deputy Knesset speaker — it is possible to say that if the Alignment has not succeeded in 100 days in resolving this problem between SHAS and the NRP, you are also not succeeding in resolving problems. You will undoubtedly say this is because of objective conditions.

[Shamir] No, this is something completely different. By the way, this is the first time I have heard about the problem of deputy Knesset speaker. But it is not important.

[Schiffer] There is a problem of appointing a deputy minister of...

[Shamir, interrupting] That is not important, that is a matter for the faction. I do not even deal with it.

[Segal] But the deputy defense minister is certainly a problem...

[Shamir, interrupting] But here there is a solution that is a part of the agreement. Two portfolios must be divided, one portfolio to one party, the other portfolio to the other party, and we can go on to deal with all the country's other problems. Why create a crisis out of this?

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, in fact, from all you are saying and what we are witnessing, perhaps, raise a very, very difficult question about your leadership ability. You are not succeeding in getting through the Cabinet the appointment of a deputy defense minister, one of your main supporters. David Levi, when he was asked who is the leader of the Likud, said and continues to say it is Menahem Begin. Are you on the way to leading Likud, or, regarding the confrontations within the Likud, will we witness a continuation of these confrontations?

[Shamir] Look, these personal problems have never interested me and they do not interest me now.

[Schiffer] But they are affecting the Likud leadership and perhaps, also, the leadership of the country.

[Shamir] I assume that all these things will be resolved. Perhaps it will take a bit more time, but it does not prevent the country from obtaining anything. Matters will sort themselves out.

[Mish'al] Mr Shamir, perhaps we will move one step forward. This SHAS crisis has exposed, perhaps, I would say, brutally, the lack of confidence between the Likud and the Alignment. Anyone who listened to the report on the Likud faction meeting heard you saying there are elements in the government who want to see the Likud split and leave in splinters. Your colleague, David Levi, says: The Likud is presented as the one who destroyed and the Alignment came along to rehabilitate. The same was said by other colleagues. What is actually happening?

[Shamir] Look, my friend, the national unity government, after all, is not an idyll. All in all, it is a combination of two camps that have contradictory views. It includes camps that have always fought among themselves — and they are continuing today, too,

with the ideological confrontation — except that now, for the sake of common action, common state action, they must overcome...

[Mish'al, interrrupting] But they are not overcoming.

[Shamir] So they must overcome. Childhood ailments must be overcome. We said these things that you have enumerated at the faction meeting, the Likud faction. Today, before I appeared on Moqed, I heard slander about our people. I heard slander about Minister David Levi. You hear this every day from Alignment members. This must stop. Confidence or no confidence, you cannot create or destroy with a slip of the tongue, with a written decision. You must create the atmosphere for this.

[Schiffer] But how can you conduct a government, or lead a country, in which one body wants to splinter the other, and the other describes the first one as a catastrophe? We are then faced with endless accusations. Perhaps, in fact, it was a mistake to go for a national unity government?

[Shamir] It was essential and it is difficult. There are difficulties here and they must be overcome, and I am sure that this is possible. I believe that what we are hearing today are childhood ailments, ones that must be overcome. Secondly, let us take into consideration that both parties regard the situation of a national unity government as not being a permanent situation, not an eternal situation. One day the camps will separate. Such a government is always a temporary phenomenon, even if it is for several years, and so one also thinks of the future. Each one thinks of how he will emerge from this operation [last word in English] and so these things must be taken into account. The country's interests must be ensured; what must be stressed must be stressed, and what must be suppressed must be suppressed.

[Mish'al] That is, you sleep well at night when people in your movement want to split you?

[Shamir] I generally sleep well, but I must be alert, I must not be naive, and I must not think that the Alignment people have suddenly turned into the friends of the Likud and vice versa. Nor did we agree to this. We agreed that, for a certain period of time, we would work together. And we are doing this and we must do this better despite disturbances. This disturbance of the crisis over SHAS is one that must be overcome.

[Segal] Mr Shamir, I would like to ask you about your alertness. Are you aware of the fact that the prime minister is taking political initiatives, both with regard to Jordan and Egypt; 'Ezer Weizman is continuing with political initiatives regarding the Egyptians; and, in fact, today the prime minister's office is emptying all your activity as foreign minister of all content and that this feeling can be felt today from almost every visit to the Foreign Ministry, the feeling that the senior officials are asking about? What is actually happening?

[Shamir] As usual, there is great exaggeration in what you say. The prime minister's office always conducts certain political activities. I think that, despite all the whispers and rumors about all sorts of things done in secret...

[Segal, interrupting] You, for instance, are you a partner in all the moves...

[Shamir, interrupting] Yes, yes. Let me finish the sentence. Despite all the whispers and rumors, no serious political move can be undertaken without Likud's agreement, and that is the final determination.

[Segal] Did you participate in the moves made recently between the prime minister and King Husayn, the contacts toward advancing the peace process between the two countries? Was this done with your agreement?

[Shamir] I do not want to comment on leaks, but I am generally briefed.

[Segal] Sir, how would you rate the performance of Shim'on Peres as prime minister?

[Shamir] Look, it is not my job to define and criticize here. I work together with him, and I have no special complaints about the form of our cooperation.

[Segal] You are talking more about the cordial relations between you. I am asking about his functioning as Israel's prime minister.

[Shamir] Look, it is too short a period to judge. So far I do not think that I can categorically say that his performance is good or not good. To run a national unity government is not a simple matter; it is not a routine matter.

[Mish'al] And has he been successful in directing its course correctly?

[Shamir] We have only passed the 3-month mark. If we overcome the crisis, I will be able to tell you, in a little while, whether I can give him a good grade.

[Mish'al] This is a step forward, in itself, for the national unity government. So perhaps this is the time to pass over to political issues on the agenda. We will begin with Lebanon. The prime minister said today that Israel must unilaterally withdraw from Lebanon to our international border. Today there are more reports that maybe we are talking about an imminent announcement.

[Shamir] The prime minister explained his remarks, and said that he did not say this. He said that he abides by the decision of the government that we should achieve an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon on the condition that we attain satisfactory security arrangements on the Israeli-Lebanese border, and this is the government's decision.

[Schiffer] Mr Shamir, the statement of the prime minister was published in a public interview in *HA'ARETZ* yesterday, and this morning it was published as remarks which he made to the Parents Against Silence group . He said that he supports a unilateral withdrawal to the international border and that he is against additional interim arrangements. This is therefore his official stand, as it was published, and it was not denied.

[Shamir] What I said is based upon what I personally heard from him today. This is his stand.

[Schiffer] Did you clarify this with him as a result of the published remarks?

[Shamir] We talked about it.

[Mish'al] That is, he is against a unilateral withdrawal?

[Shamir] He is against a unilateral withdrawal without satisfactory security arrangements. This is the government's decision. All of us — the entire national unity government — supports the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon on the condition that we have security arrangements along the border which would prevent the terrorists from returning and attacking the Galilee.

[Segal] But, sir, we have been hearing this formula about a withdrawal from Lebanon while preserving security arrangements — which actually means signing an agreement with Lebanon — for many months, if not for years. You yourself said when you were prime minster that we arrived at the last stage of Israel's involvement in Lebanon, and since then 9 months have passed. How much longer will it be?

[Shamir] Until we achieve our aims. We cannot abandon the Galilee; we cannot abandon northern Israel to Katyushas and terrorist artillery, and the terrorists will return to the border as soon as the IDF is no longer there. And we heard in the last PNC how they lamented the fact that they lost the territorial base they had in Lebanon. And when the last IDF soldier leaves Lebanon, they will immediately reestablish this base, and then the IDF will again have to renew the war. Is this better?

[Mish'al] Mr Shamir, from your words I get the impression that we are not at all any nearer to a withdrawal from Lebanon.

[Shamir] I am not saying this. We are constantly searching for ways to attain the twin objective of withdrawing the IDF and establishing security arrangements.

[Mish'al] Do you have any timetable for a withdrawal of the IDF forces from Lebanon?

[Shamir] I think that it will be irresponsible to state any timetable, but we are discussing this issue, and I think there are solutions, and there will be solutions.

[Segal] But sir, if we are frank, we have to say that almost everyone agrees that the Al-Naqurah talks have failed. We cannot achieve any dialogue and understanding with the Syrians. What then are we waiting for? With whom will you make the security arrangements? With some kind of mysterious entity?

[Shamir] You probably know that there are solutions, security arrangements, without a formal agreement with the Lebanese Government. I do not want to go into details, but there is also this possibility.

[Mish'al] Do you mean to say that we are about to reach some kind of solution to the problem of the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon? Do I understand you correctly?

[Shamir] If we do not achieve an agreement on the basis of negotiations with the Lebanese Government, we will have to operate without such an agreement in order to establish security arrangements along the border, and in order to attempt to withdraw the IDF as soon as possible.

[Mish'al] How much time will be alloted to the political option, the official negotiations, until we carry out what you say here?

[Shamir] I am against establishing ultimatums for ourselves. I think that any announcement about a quick withdrawal from Lebanon reduces the chances for such a withdrawal, because this encourages our enemies, and it weakens those who want to reach an agreement with us.

[Mish'al] Maybe we will move on to the Jordanian option, Mr Shamir. It is no secret that lately there have been some kind of contacts between the prime minister and King Husayn. Do you in principle support such contacts?

[Shamir] As I said before, I cannot react to leaks. Usually they are not accurate, and I am not willing to divulge things which amount to indirect contacts with various people in various countries. I am not against — and I was never against — ties with any Arab ruler. I am against having ties with the PLO. I support ties with Husayn, and any Arab ruler, depending upon the essence of these ties. However, I support ties; I favor improving relations; I favor a peace treaty.

[Schiffer] So what do you think about the contacts with Egypt. Do you share the assessment that every effort must be exerted to reach agreements with Egypt on all the controversial issues, or do you think that this amounts to over-courting?

[Shamir] Look, we signed a peace treaty with Egypt, we paid a heavy price. I favor improving relations with Egypt. However, the problem with us is that when we begin to talk about any political initiative, we immediately think about what Israel should give up. Every political initiative becomes a codeword for Israeli concessions.

[Segal] The question is: What can Israel give up? That is not what it wants to give up, but what it can give up in order to attain peace.

[Shamir] What can Israel give up? Is Israel an empire? Israel is a small country, and there is a territorial minimum.

[Segal] Tabah, for example.

[Shamir] Look here, my friend, there are hundreds of territorial conflicts in the world. I have just returned from Latin America; there is almost no country there that does not have territorial conflicts with a neighboring country. This does not lead to war, and nobody is in a hurry to return what he holds. And things are resolved. Recently a conflict between Chile and Argentina was resolved after 100 years, and it was resolved by means of a

referendum in Argentina. Why are we hurrying? Suppose there is a conflict between us and Egypt regarding Tabah, what is the rush?

[Segal] The rush is that some years have already passed since the signing of the Camp David accords.

[Shamir] How many years has it been since we withdrew from the entire Sinai? Two years? Three years? Is this a lot of time in relation to our history?

[Segal] No, but we complain about the cold peace with Egypt, that the normalization is actually not being implemented.

[Shamir] True, but this is not our fault. They broke all the normalization agreements which we signed. They did not implement even one agreement. They want to hold negotiations only on Tabah. We are not avoiding negotiations on Tabah. Today, too, there are talks. However, we want negotiations to be held on all the issues between us and Egypt. Why only on those which they are interested in? We have been completely faithful to the peace treaty — 100 percent so — without any deviation, and I would be the happiest man in the world if Egypt, too, would have behaved like us, and would have been completely faithful to the peace treaty that we signed with it.

[Mish'al] We are nearing the end, sir. Despite repeated demands by you that 'Ezer Weizman end his involvement with the Egyptian issue, his meetings — so we understand — continue.

[Shamir] That is true. I am not happy about it. I think that the prime minister, let us assume, can give him permission, or can direct him to meet this or that diplomat. But in that event I should be briefed, or else a representative of the Foreign Ministry should attend the meetings.

[Segal] And you are not briefed?

[Shamir] I demanded that from the prime minister, and so far it has not happened, but I assume that it will be arranged. However, I reiterate: Nothing will be done without my permission and without the agreement of the Likud.

[Mish'al] By the way, is your hint that there is someone who wants to be foreign minister linked with this affair?

[Shamir] Look, you can think whatever you want to.

[Mish'al] With your permission, I will ask the last question. It has been 1 year and 4 months since the retirement of Menahem Begin from his post as the leader of Likud and as the prime minister. Then you filled the shoes of Begin. What is the personal stamp you left on the Likud during this period?

[Shamir] I told you that the personal issue does not interest me. I abhor the personification of the political process in Israel. I still see myself as a man who fulfills a certain obligation, as serving a certain ideal, and this is what interests me. If I contribute to this ideal, which is dear to me, then I think that I am successful. If I do not contribute — in that event I would find no interest in any political involvement. Obviously, everybody has certain personal considerations, but I would not overrate them. In my case they are marginal.

[Segal] And you believe that you contribute to Likud's political ideal, as did Begin in his time?

[Shamir] I do not want to compare myself to Begin, and I did not fill Menahem Begin's shoes. Menahem Begin established Herut and navigated and led it for 30 years. I do not want to be his equal; I think that I contributed and that I am making my own, albeit modest, contribution.

Peres Remarks on Lebanon Withdrawal Criticizd

TA191419 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The Likud Knesset faction has said that the prime minister and the Alignment are taking a heavy responsibility upon themselves for dissolving the unity government by violating the coalition agreement on the division of portfolios. Keeping agreements, credibility, and preserving the balance which is the basis of the unity government are a vital condition for its further existence.

Severe criticism was also levelled at Shim'on Peres. Minister David Levi said, among other things, that Peres was working against the Likud, and matters reached a peak yesterday. At a time when our delegation was negotiating in Al-Naqurah, Peres spoke of a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon. Levi expressed his confidence that in the end a resolution would be found to the SHAS problem, but, above and beyond the crisis, he said, it would be necessary to sit down with the Alignment and clarify what it wanted.

Reportage, Comments on Al-Naqurah Talks

20 Dec Last of Talks

TA191944 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] People in Jerusalem believe that Israel has reached the end of the road regarding the political alternative in everything connected with the Israeli presence in Lebanon, our political correspondent notes. Jerusalem sources said this evening that there is a change in Israeli policy about the continuation of the political process in Lebanon.

Our political correspondent reports that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met with U.S. Ambassador in Israel Samuel Lewis, but what they discussed was not learned.

Our correspondent reports that the meeting between the military delegations that is to be held tomorrow in Al-Naqurah will be the last of negotiations between Israel and Lebanon. At the end of tomorrow's meeting, the delegations will disperse and not meet again.

Reports: Positive Results Unlikely

TA200558 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The meeting between the Israeli and Lebanese military delegations at Al-Naqurah today will be the last one. The government will shortly discuss a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, coupled with security arrangements which would suit Israel's requirements. Our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports:

From the reports given by U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis to Prime Minister Peres about Richard Murphy's meetings in Beirut and Damascus, it emerges that the chances for a positive result in the talks are slim. These talks have excelled in foot-dragging, and people in Israel believe that they are leading nowhere. Knowledgeable sources therefore assume that today's meeting between the Israeli military delegation and the Lebanese delegation at Al-Naqurah will also be a farewell session. The Lebanese delegation was in any event supposed to take a recess now. It seems that what has been happening at Al-Naqurah twice a week over the last few months will not exactly be missed by any member of the Israeli delegation. The Lebanese led the talks in circles, and that is why Jerusalem yesterday had no problem in deciding on the termination of these talks.

At this point, it should be pointed out that the government will shortly discuss a unilateral withdrawal coupled with security arrangements which would suit Israel's objectives alone. In view of the Lebanese moves which have been hindering the talks, these security arrangements will not guarantee Lebanon's interests.

In southern Lebanon, there is great apprehension about such a unilateral withdrawal. The Lebanese Government also fears that in the wake of such a withdrawal, serious sectarian fighting might recur in the area to be evacuated by the IDF, as was the case in the Al-Shuf area following the IDF pullout over 1 year ago.

Gilbo'a: UN Deployment Key

TA200816 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The 12th round of talks between the military delegations of Israel and Lebanon at Al-Naqurah is scheduled to begin now. The head of the Israeli delegation, Brigadier General 'Amos Gilbo'a, has said that a breakthrough in the negotiations would only be made if the Lebanese agree to stationing large UN forces in the northern sector of southern Lebanon. Gilbo'a was speaking to our correspondent Gabi Zohar.

This morning our correspondent reported that today's session might apparently be the last one. Israel believes that the Al-Naqurah talks have made no progress and that Richard Murphy's mediating mission has failed. Our military correspondent points out that if there are no surprising developments on this issue, the government will shortly discuss a unilateral withdrawal plan.

Al-Hajj Pessimistic on Progress

TA200857 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0841 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The head of the Lebanese delegation to the Al-Naqurah talks is pessimistic this morning over the possibility of progress being made in the talks. However, he expressed the hope that the talks would resume after the Christmas holidays. The head of the delegation, Muhammad al-Hajj, added that Israel does not want the Lebanese Army entering southern Lebanon. He stressed that he rejects the army of southern Lebanon and that the independence of this army is only superficial. Muhammad al-Hajj's remarks were reported by our correspondent Gabi Zohar.

Our correspondent says that the two delegations are now beginning the last round of talks before the Christmas recess.

Gilbo'a: Talks May Not Continue

TA201126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1113 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] And now back to Al-Naqurah, where Israel's delegation head, Major General [rank as heard] 'Amos Gilbo'a, has just formally announced that Israel may not return to the negotiating table at Al-Naqurah after the current recess.

[Begin Gilbo'a recording] The Government of Israel hopes to receive the reply of the Government of Lebanon to its proposals before the next planned meeting at Al-Naqurah on 7 January 1985. In the case that the Lebanese reply to Israel's proposals will not be a positive one, the Government of Israel will find itself obliged to consider whether there will be any further purpose in the continuation of the talks at Al-Naqurah. [end recording]

Al-Hajj: Talks To Continue

TA200918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The head of the Lebanese delegation to the talks with Israel has said that the stationing of Lebanese Army units in the south would be discussed in today's session. According to him, the Lebanese Army would have no problem reaching the area, although it is currently having trouble deploying its units in the Al-Kharrub region.

The head of the delegation, Brigadier Muhammad al-Hajj, argued that Israel does not want the Lebanese Army to control the south. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar points out that Brig al-Hajj emphasized that the Al-Naqurah talks would continue and that today's round of talks would not be the last.

Peres: 'No Progress' in Talks

TA201348 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1342 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this afternoon expressed disappointment over the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon in Al-Naqurah. In a talk with our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, during a visit there, the prime minister said that there was no progress in the talks, and that on various issues — mainly the deployment of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon — Lebanon showed no intention of resolving the issues.

The prime minister also said that following the termination of the package deal's period, we should examine the issue of the government's subsidies for basic goods. Peres promised, however, that the subsidies for these goods will not be completely abolished.

Preparations for Tabah Talks With Egypt Under Way

TA191112 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 19 Dec 84 pp 1, 11

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Text] The IDF's liaison unit to the MFO and the joint Israeli-Egyptian military committee has begun administrative preparations in anticipation of a possible meeting of the military committee in Beersheba to discuss the question of Tabah.

Military sources yesterday noted that the date of the joint military committee meeting has not yet been set, and the issue is currently in the initial stages of study and administrative work. According to the plans, the meetings would take place in Beersheba and Ismailia.

Israel and Egypt have held contacts in the last 2 and 1/2 years in which the former attempted to persuade Egypt to hold a discussion about summoning the MFO to maintain security at Tabah. The military sources said that the Egyptians are now trying to give the MFO authority to police and rule the area, a role which this force would not be able to fulfill. Moreover, the countries which sent contingents to the MFO would not agree to such a mandate because it was designed to have authority only in military affairs.

Sources at the political-security level pointed out that Israel would not hesitate to go to arbitration on the question of Tabah. A legal study based on international law and on documents and maps dating back to Ottoman rule and the British mandate was prepared this year. Documents located both in Israel and London corroborate Israel's claim that Tabah is within its territory.

The question of Tabah is another issue — in addition to the issue of trade with Israel, tourism, and so forth — which was frozen by the Egyptians. Israel wants to discuss all these subjects and has invited Egypt to do so in Beersheba.

Kimche Says Egypt, Europe Can Bring in Jordan

TA200542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The director general of the Foreign Ministry believes that Western Europe and Egypt could persuade Jordan to join the peace talks with Israel. Speaking with correspondents in Brussels, David Kimche pointed out that Israel has, on several occasions, invited King Husayn to join negotiations without any preconditions. Kimche arrived in Brussels to hold talks with EEC representatives.

Jordan Asks West Bankers To Approach Israelis

TA191258 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Dec 84 p 13

[Report by Yosef Tzuq]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat has instructed personalities in the territories to approach Israeli authorities on the question of replacing the Israeli officers in charge of the municipalities of Hebron, Ramallah, Al-Birah, and Nabulus with Arab mayors. During talks they held with the Jordanian prime minister approximately 1 month ago, these personalities formulated a proposal that includes the names of those suggested for the posts of mayors and city councillors. All the people listed enjoy the confidence of the Jordanian authorities.

Jordan wants to cooperate in the field with the Israeli authorities in order to enable its supporters to establish themselves and attain positions of influence within the organizations operating in the territories. The Jordanian prime minister personally instructed the leaders of the Jordanian camp in the West Bank to launch a comprehensive organizational drive, in anticipation of the power struggle expected to take place in the territories upon the resumption of the negotiations on a solution to the Palestinian problem.

About 2 weeks ago, the coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, held a meeting at night with Anwar al-Khatib in East Jerusalem to discuss, among other things, the specifics of the Jordanian proposals. Observers in the West Bank see a link between this Jordanian initiative and recent reports about secret meetings held by King Husayn and Shim'on Peres.

Romania Wants Peres To Advance Date of Visit

TA201114 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] The Romanian Government has requested that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres make his planned visit to Bucharest as soon as possible. In contacts presently taking place on the timing of the visit, Romanian officials requested that Peres arrive as early as this month. Israel had requested that the visit take place in March. The Romanian officials gave no explanation why this visit is so urgent, and Israel's ambassador to Romania, Tzvi Brosh, reported that the Romanian officials only said that President Ceausescu wants to talk soon about various "bilateral issues."

Prime Minister Peres To Visit Italy in February
TA200532 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister will visit Italy in February. An authoritative source in Rome said that Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi would later visit Israel. The date for the latter visit has not yet been set. Peres was scheduled to visit Rome at the end of January but he apparently put off the visit to express Israel's resentment over Craxi's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat.

Unemployment Reaches 7 Percent, Growing
TA191229 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Excerpt] Unemployment in October rose to 7 percent of the civilian working force, compared to 5.6 percent in the third quarter of 1984 and 5.9 percent in the second quarter of this year. Data made available to *HA'ARETZ* shows that unemployment continued to grow in mid-November and the number of unemployed (those people who actively looked for a job) rose to 100,000, compared with 86,000 unemployed during the third quarter of this year.

A senior source in the Labor Ministry yesterday pointed out that the unemployment rate had reached over 6 percent.

Eighteen Arab Galilee Youths To Serve in IDF
TA201012 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 84 p 3

[Report by Druze affairs correspondent Musbah Halabi]

[Text] The IDF authorities have recently approved the recruitment of 18 Arab Galilee youths to serve in the IDF. The prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, Binyamin Gur-Arye, who reported this at a 1-day seminar held by his office, also said that at present there are 200 requests from other Arab youths, most of them Christians, and some Muslims, who want to volunteer to serve in the IDF. These do not include requests by Bedouin youths who have been recruited in the IDF for several years.

W. Bank Lawyers To Challenge Government Road Plan
TA200753 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 84 p 3

[Report by Michael Eilan]

[Text] A group of West Bank lawyers plans to challenge the legality of a $400 million Israeli road scheme before the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The new "Road Plan Number 50," published early this year will, according to the lawyers, entail the expropriation of a total of 46,000 dunams of land. All construction and development on another 78,000 dunams of land alongside the broad new roads will be frozen, according to details of the plan published by the Civilian Administration.

The road plan had been challenged at the High Court of Justice, but it turned down the petition, ruling that the proposed roads would benefit the Arab population. Lawyers 'Aziz, Fu'ad and Raja Shihadah, and a team of experts from Al-Najah University in Nabulus say that the opposite is true.

The new roads, they say, would freeze all development in the villages and towns it bypasses because of the ban on all building in the vicinity of the roads.

In a Jerusalem press conference yesterday, 'Amid (Wahid) Mari appealed to Prime Minister Peres to demonstrate goodwill. Referring to reports that Peres is interested in efforts to entice Jordan into the peace process he said: "You have to attract to be attractive." Another spokesman at the press conference said that Jordan is closely following the road scheme which could be viewed as an "acid test" of the new government's real intentions.

Masri prepared a report on a 20-kilometre stretch of proposed "Road Number 57" which leads east from Tulkarm and crosses through Nabulus until it links up with the main north-south road in the Jordan Valley. Construction of this relatively small part of the whole road plan would cause about $27 million in damages to Arab farmers and residents of the town of Anabta, Masri writes in his report.

Further east along the same road, the plan calls for the destruction of the Ghawr al-Farah irrigation scheme which supplies water to 16,000 dunams of cultivated land. The road plan specifically forbids construction of pipes or other water conduits that would cross the road.

The plan, devised by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, the Civilian Administration and the Defence Ministry, was promulgated in the West Bank as the work of the Higher Town Planning Council, originally a Jordanian institution now staffed by Israeli officers. The plan deals with roughly 600 kilometres of roads, some of which have already been built. The basic idea behind the plan appears to be to change the existing road grid which had main north-south roads with a new system linking up to fast connections with the Israeli road system.

Hisham (Awartani) of Al-Najah University in Nabulus who too was a member of another team which examined the effects of the road system, said yesterday that the cost per capita for the new road system would be $8,000 per West Bank settler.

Only countries have the right to appeal directly to the High Court of Justice in The Hague. The team of lawyers, therefore, plans to try to obtain an advisory opinion from the court. The mechanism for obtaining such an option is referring the matter to the UN General Assembly or the Security Council. Two thirds of the vote in the General Assembly are necessary for referral to the High Court in The Hague. If they manage to get such a referral, the lawyers first plan to seek an interim order forbidding construction until a full hearing can be convened.

The lawyers said that "thousands" of Arabs had filed legal

objections to the road scheme, which cannot be approved until these objections are heard. 'Aziz Shihadah said that as far as he knows, no date has yet been set for hearing these objections.

PNC Appoints Deposed Mayor as Israeli Liaison

TA191048 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that the deposed mayor of Halhul, Muhammad Milhim, will head a committee on behalf of the PNC whose mission will be to promote relations with Israeli circles and Western European personalities.

Milhim was appointed to this post because of the good contacts he had in Israel prior to his deportation and the good relations he fostered in Western Europe during the PLO's information campaign to protest his deportation.

Citizens Rights MK's Visit Al-Duhayshah Camp

TA191658 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] Knesset Members [MK's] Aloni, Sarid, and Bar-On this afternoon visited the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp to closely assess the situation there and listen to the views of local inhabitants. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the inhabitants claim that the authorities are treating them roughly, and that the settlers are maltreating them. The CRM MK's promised to intervene and act against collective punishment. Aloni, Sarid, and Bar-On also held a talk with Rabbi Levinger, who is holding a vigil near Al-Duhayshah, and explained to him that the Palestinians are also entitled to their national rights.

Al-Kharrub Christians Want To Settle in Sidon

TA191450 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1412 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 19 Dec (ITIM) — Some 90 Christian families from the villages in the Al-Kharrub region have arrived in Sidon in the last few days, and they intend to settle there.

Dozens of more families are scheduled to arrive there in the next few days, and they will also ask to remain in the areas controlled by the IDF. "The battles have not ceased for the last 10 days in the area in which we live; we are sick and tired of this kind of existence," explained those who came to the officers of the IDF liaison unit. The refugees said that the Druze are improving their positions and continuously shelling the Christian villages with tank-fire and missiles.

The heads of the Christian community in Lebanon appealed to the IDF not to abandon their brethren in the Al-Kharrub region. They are also organizing a high level delegation to go to Israel to arouse public opinion.

The IDF is following the events in the Al-Kharrub region, but for the time being there is no intention of getting involved in them.

Increase in Terrorist Attacks Over Past Year

TA200811 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Arab terrorists operating in Israel use "a considerable amount" of IDF weapons which they obtain through the underworld, and the IDF grenade used to attack the Dan bus here on Sunday was just one example, *THE JERUSALEM POST* has learned.

There has been a considerable increase in Fatah attempts to attack Israel this past year — reaching the level of 1980-81 — but the enemy is hampered because it's bases are distant and Israel's preventive measures are effective.

Nevertheless, terrorists have succeeded in launching 349 attacks in Israel since January 1, killing five Jews and wounding 108.

This figure, however, does not include most stone-throwings in the West Bank or the murder of Hadas Qedmi because it is not yet known if Qedmi was murdered by terrorists.

In Lebanon there were, on average, close to three attacks a day, or, as of Monday, 892 attacks in which 28 Israelis were killed and 275 were wounded.

Syrian-backed terrorist organizations have devoted 90 per cent of their efforts to attacking Israeli targets in Lebanon. But the Fatah stepped up its efforts half a year ago in anticipation of the Palestine National Council, which had repeatedly postponed its meetings. Finally, when it did meet last month in Amman, attempted attacks by the Fatah reached their peak.

Fatah operations personnel planned kidnappings, landings by sea and airborne attacks. In some instances Israeli security forces found signs of sophistication and daring, which have been influenced by the war in Lebanon. Israeli authorities apprehended larger quantities of explosives than before, sometimes as much as 10 kilograms.

Following the achievement of closer relations between the PLO and Jordan, the Palestinian organization opened an office in Amman and some key operations personnel spend considerable time there. But the headquarters are believed here to be mainly for political and intelligence-gathering purposes, and the Jordanians realize they must curtail the Palestinians.

Defence Minister Rabin's warnings to Jordan not to permit attacks from its territory may have been designed to help King Hussein in his attempts to rein in the Palestinians.

Molotov Cocktail in W. Bank; No Casualties

TA200517 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0445 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Al-Duhayshah, 19 Dec (ITIM) — At 2230 this evening a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol near the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. The device exploded but did not ignite. There were no casualties. IDF units are searching the area.

Two Injured by Stones Near Al-Duhayshah

TA201210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Two passengers in an Israeli car were injured by stones hurled at them near the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. The security forces arrested one of the stone-throwers.

FRG's Greens Delegation Cancels Visit in Protest

TA191043 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 19 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Our correspondent has learned from political sources in Jerusalem that the German "Greens" delegation will not come to Israel.

When the "Greens" learned that Brigitte Heinrich — who is close to the PLO terrorist organization and has been convicted in Germany for her relations with international terrorists — would not be allowed to enter Israel, they said they regarded this as an antidemocratic move on the part of Israel. Consequently, they canceled their plans to include Israel in their tour of the Middle East.

Poll Shows Alignment Would Gain in New Elections

TA191249 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Dec 84 p 3

[PORI poll]

[Excerpts] If the resignation of SHAS brings about the government's downfall and new elections are held, Likud would lose power while the Alignment would maintain its strength. Also, the two ends of the political spectrum — the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM] and KAKH — would gain power. These are the findings of a nationwide election poll conducted about a week ago by the PORI Institute and commissioned by *HA'ARETZ*. Some 74 percent of the Alignment voters in the 11th Knesset said they would once again vote for the Alignment, while only 58.5 percent of the Likud voters said they would vote for it again. A significant part of the Likud's "fugitives" at present "do not know" who they would vote for, and some of them said they would vote for KAKH.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 male and female eligible voters, aged 18 and above, who were interviewed individually throughout the country with the utmost of discretion.

Government May Agree To Stationing VOA Transmitters

TA200529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Agreement is emerging in Jerusalem to allow the United States to set up transmitters in Israel which would beam VOA programs to Eastern Europe, particularly to the Soviet Union. This has been learned by our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer.

The prime minister, the communications minister, and several other officials conferred 2 days ago to discuss the political implications. Our correspondent adds that secret debates on this issue have been held for some time in view of the U.S. argument that the Soviet Union is currently making feverish efforts to jam VOA programs and prevent their reception in the countries they are being beamed to. A delegation of VOA senior officials has also visited Israel.

Habre Comments on UDEAC Problems, CEEAC Meeting

AB191542 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The head of state is on the second day of his visit to Brazzaville, where he will participate in the summit meetings of the Economic Community of Central African States [CEEAC] and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] with his Central African counterparts. The CEEAC summit, which opened this morning, will end this evening to give way to the summit of the UDEAC.

Yesterday, on his arrival at the Brazzaville Maya-Maya International Airport, President Hissein Habre was welcomed by President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, accompanied by members of the government and the Congolese Labor Party. In a statement made on arrival to reporters, President Hissein Habre talked about Chad's reintegration in the UDEAC and commented on President Mitterrand's recent statement on French television.

Concerning Chad's return to the UDEAC, the president stressed that the efforts made in this connection have been fruitful. The experts, he said, worked with serious-mindedness in Bangui in cooperation with the UDEAC General Secretariat, adding: Excellent results have been achieved and, at the appropriate time, we will draw inspiration from them and decide what should be done.

The head of state then talked about President Francois Mitterrand's statement on French television. President Mitterrand, he said, has given a press conference. I believe that this conference was addressed mainly to French public opinion. President Mitterrand talked about what he considers to be French foreign policy. To be sure, Chad was mentioned in this press conference of the French president, who defined his view of the situation. As far as Chad is concerned, we, of course, have our own view, said President Habre.

The president also talked about Chad's grievances against the UDEAC, which motivated his country's withdrawal from the organization in 1968. These grievances were resolved in a memorandum submitted to the UDEAC in 1976, which consisted of the following six points: the union's industrialization and economic development policy; the union's investment code; the common infrastructures and transit problems; the solidarity fund; the financial system; the status of Article 33 of the union, which stipulates that imported goods ready for consumption transferred from a member state to another member state for sale should be statistically checked as to quality and quantity; and finally the border problems, particularly the application of the cooperation agreements between Chad and the neighboring countries.

Concerning the union's investment code, Chad is of the opinion that it must make special provisions in favor of the land-locked countries. Chad demands guarantees to safeguard its development plan because there exists a process of industrial development. As a land-locked country, Chad wants to be accorded preferential tariffs for the use of the railroad, port, and road infrastructures of the more developed coastal member states.

Further Reportage on UDEAC Summit Conference

Chad Rejoins Despite 'Difficulties'

AB191540 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 19 (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre today signed an agreement marking his country's return to the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC), despite last-minute difficulties about the readmission. UDEAC, which groups Gabon, Congo, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and the Central African Republic, has been holding its 20th anniversary summit in the Congolese capital since Monday.

Chadian sources said "political goodwill" had prevailed and that Chad hoped to improve UDEAC from within — an indication that the grievances which led Chad to leave UDEAC in 1968 have still not been resolved. At that time, Chad said UDEAC was not doing enough to help landlocked countries. However, the Chadians maintained observer status and applied to rejoin UDEAC in 1981.

Habre on Readmission

AB200920 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Interview with Chadian President Hissein Habre in Brazzaville on 19 December after Chad's readmission into the Customs and Economic Union of Central African States by unidentified reporter — recorded]

[Text] [Habre] Before anything else, I would like to tell you that sometimes the press is far ahead of events. This morning it was announced somewhere that Chad has not joined the Customs and Economic Union of Central African States [UDEAC]. Well, now we can say that Chad had actually become a member of the UDEAC.

In fact, though Chad has been absent from the UDEAC for 16 years, it has for some years now been raising the question of its reentry into the UDEAC. The process took 2 years, and today we can congratulate ourselves on the satisfactory outcome of our return to this Central African institution, one of the oldest on the continent. We express pride in our return, particularly because we live in the age of African unity, not only politically but at all levels, and especially economically.

The need to build African unity was felt just before the era of independence by visionaries like the late President [title as heard] Boganda [CAR's first premier] and the late President Kwame Nkrumah. Since then, the process has continued. With this in mind, I think the best way to attain African unity is to build it step by step through regional groupings and on solid bases such as the UDEAC, which is a grouping of states sharing common bonds. As early as the colonial era, there was a similar unitary bond between East and West Cameroon. Today, there must be a greater and growing framework (?among the countries) and peoples of the subregion. That is what has prompted Chad's reentry into the UDEAC.

I would like to express my thanks and my congratulations to the UDEAC heads of state — Presidents Bongo, Sassou-Nguesso, Kolingba, Obiang Nguema — for seeing the need to extend and strengthen the UDEAC, which made it possible for Chad to return to the organization.

I would also like to express my congratulations and my thanks to the UDEAC's general secretariat, which contributed greatly to the successful outcome.

[Reporter] Could you tell us your personal feelings following the readmission of Chad into UDEAC?

[Habre] Well, my innermost feeling? After initialling the document on Chad's return into UDEAC, I feel that I have done something very dear to the hearts of all Africans — contributing to African unity.

CEEAC Members Gather for First Summit Meeting

Offices Planned for Gabon, Zaire

AB191016 Paris AFP in English 0744 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Brazzaville, Dec 19 (AFP) — The headquarters of the 10-nation Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC), formed in October last year, is to be based in Gabon and the General Secretariat in Zaire, the new grouping's first summit decided here Tuesday.

Congo, the summit host, will be chairman for the coming year, for which an initial budget of 1,935,238 dollars has been set.

CEEAC members are Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zaire. Cameroon has already been selected for the next summit.

ALGERIA

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND Interviews Bendjedid

AU181057 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Algiers — On Sunday, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the National Liberation Front (FLN), gave an interview to *NEUES DEUTSCHLAND*. It reads as follows:

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: What are your expectations, Mr President, of the forthcoming visit of the GDR State Council chairman, Erich Honecker, to your country?

Bendjedid: First I want to stress the great significance Algeria attaches to the official visit of Comrade Erich Honecker, SED Central Committee general secretary and GDR State Council chairman, in Algeria.

I am convinced that this important visit will contribute to strengthening the numerous and manifold ties that have developed between our two states.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: Recently Algeria's people celebrated the 30th anniversary of the beginning of the armed liberation struggle. What would you regard as the most important successes of free Algeria?

Bendjedid: As I am sure you know, Algeria has achieved its national sovereignty in a long struggle against colonial servitude. Since then our country has continuously worked for national reconstruction. In all fields Algeria has undertaken enormous efforts to lead the country out of the underdevelopment and dependence into which it sank due to colonial rule. The results achieved in all fields, as in education, industry, agriculture, and water management, and in the infrastructure, are an expression of our deep will to mobilize all our forces for economic and social development. For the Algerian people the successes in development are a justified reason for satisfaction.

After 2 decades of independent development, Algeria can be proud of being fully responsible for its economic potentials and use them for the benefit of the people.

It is clear that this development is a constant process. The work for economic and social progress will continue constantly and all forces of the nation will be mobilized for it. This is shown particularly now, as we are at the threshold of the new 5-year plan for the 1985-1989 period.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: Between the GDR and Algeria there are traditional friendly relations that go back to the time of the Algerian people's liberation struggle. After the achievement of independence, fruitful cooperation developed in many fields, in particular in economic cooperation. How do you assess the results?

Bendjedid: The level of bilateral cooperation that has been achieved is really satisfactory. It is an eloquent expression of the quality of the friendly relations linking our two states, our two parties, and peoples.

But obviously the possibilities of the economic exchange between Algeria and the GDR are not yet exhausted. The main thing is to further accelerate the development of bilateral relations on the basis of an equilibrium of interests and to create the proper conditions for such an acceleration. It will be the task of the Joint Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technological Cooperation to find the best methods for achieving this aim.

I personally am convinced that there are numerous possibilities for strengthening cooperation between the two states.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: The party congress of the SED and the FLN have set significant tasks. In your view, how can cooperation contribute to their implementation?

Bendjedid: Indeed, far-reaching prospects have been opened for our peoples. I am firmly convinced that the bilateral cooperation will contribute to further deepening the friendly relations between our two peoples and parties.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: The imperialists' intensive armament represents an ever bigger danger to peace in the world. In addition, it consumes enormous material resources. Where do you see possibilities of stopping this trend?

Bendjedid: Algeria is fully aware of the dangers for the preservation of world peace emanating from the existing tensions in international relations. Particularly for this reason, Algeria has worked to reduce the tensions burdening all countries and all regions. We have spared no effort in making our contribution to strengthening peace and true international security. Our country supports all initiatives aiming at bringing about a change in international relations through a responsible dialogue so that all states have security, stability, and prospects for development.

NEUES DEUTSCHLAND: The Nonaligned Movement clearly increases in importance in the world arena. How do you assess Algeria's position within this movement? What is the contribution of your country to a political solution of urgent international problems?

Bendjedid: In the Nonaligned Movement Algeria works actively for achieving a life of peace and security for all states, without regard to their social systems. The Nonaligned Movement is doubtless a factor without which international life cannot be imagined, and that works toward understanding and international cooperation. Together with the other member-countries, Algeria works tirelessly for strengthening this movement whose main aim continues to be the defense of the cause of justice in the world, completion of decolonization, consolidation of the national independence of our countries, and achievement of a new world economic order.

Honecker Departure Statement Praises Talks

LD191524 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Erich Honecker, the GDR chairman of the Council of State, held a tete-a-tete with President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the FLN Party, this morning before his departure from Algeria.

Erich Honecker, the secretary general of the German United Socialist Party and chairman of the GDR Council of State, left Haouri Boumedien Airport minutes ago. He was seen off by President Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general. Before boarding the plane, Mr Honecker and President Bendjedid listened to the Algerian and GDR national anthems. He had earlier reviewed a regiment of the National Guard. He shook hands with a number FLN Political Bureau and government members and also members of the diplomatic corp accredited to Algeria. He also greeted a number of the GDR minority residing in Algeria.

At the VIP hall, Chairman Honecker made a statement to the press in which he said: [Begin recording in German with superimposed Arabic translation] At the conclusion of my visit, I would like to express my many thanks to Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN Party, and to all who participated in making this visit successful for the warm welcome and hospitability accorded to me and my accompanying delegation. The Algerian hosts have provided me with a touching picture of their magnificent country and their people's great achievements.

An atmosphere of frankness and sincerity prevailed thoughout our meetings and talks with President Chadli Bendjedid. These meetings and talks reflect the cordial relations between our two countries and peoples.

We exchanged views on international issues. We talked about the causes of the complicated international political situation, which is due to the attempts to check socialism in the world and to stop the peoples' struggle for democracy and social progress.

We agreed on the necessity to make every effort to maintain peace. I had the opportunity to explain the numerous proposals of the Soviet Union and the rest of the socialist countries for maintaining peace, curbing armaments, and disarming, including the support for the meeting between the foreign ministers of the USSR and the United States [words indistinct]. [end recording]

This was part of the statement made by Erich Honecker, the chairman of the GDR Council of State, before his departure from Haouri Boumedien Airport, concluding the 3-day official visit to our country, which was charecterized in its third day by Mr Erich Honecker's visit to the National People's Assembly.

LIBYA

Kuwait's AL-WATAN Interviews Al-Turayki

GF191510 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 18 Dec 84 p 17

[Interview with Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, by *AL-WATAN* correspondent Sulayman Fulayhan in Kuwait on 17 December]

[Excerpts] Sulayman Fulayhan: Has the Jamahiriyah's proposal to form a committee to ensure the withdrawal of the Libyan forces from Chad received a positive response?

Al-Turayki: We have proposed the formation of an investigatory committee. This is proof that we have implemented the agreement and withdrawn the forces — I am not saying the forces that were backing President Gokuni Oueddei. The problem is to reach national reconciliation in Chad. The African summit conference discussed this issue at its latest meeting in Addis Ababa. The conference asserted that Habre shoulders responsibility for the failure of the reconciliation negotiations, according to the report of the secretary general. The conference also called on the president of the Congo to continue exerting efforts in this direction. Yet Hissein Habre refused the Congo meetings as well. We in the Jamahiriyah believe that the time is right for Chadians to meet, to implement the Lagos agreement, and to form a national unity government. We hope that the contacts currently undertaken by the Congo will lead to holding a meeting to be attended by all Chadians.

Fulayhan: A short time has past since the proclamation of the Libyan-Moroccan federation. How far have you gotten in attaining the unionist framework between the two countries?

Al-Turayki: We are continuing our cooperation in accordance with an approved plan. This is designed to set up unionist structures in a scientific form, bearing in mind all the previous unionist steps and benefitting from their success or failure. The process, as you know, is not easy. We are trying as much as we can to promote coordination at various levels. This cooperation has born fruits in the field of foreign policy in a number of seminars and meetings, such as at the Mediterranean conference and at the conferences of the Nonaligned Movement.

Fulayhan: What about Libyan-Tunisian relations?

Al-Turayki: While we are making progress in the federation with Morocco, we are also making moves with Tunis. The Supreme Council — which comprises the Tunisian Council of Ministers and the Libyan General People's Committee — will hold a meeting shortly. This is evidence that we do not have a unidirectional policy and that we are pursuing integration with all neighboring countries. We welcomed the meeting of the Algerian-Libyan Committee which was formed by the Algerian Ministerial Council and the Libyan People's Committee. This committee has met once since its establishment.

Fulayhan: Sudan charges Libya with interfering in the internal affairs of the Sudan, particularly in the south. What is your

country's relationship with some of the Sudanese opposition sides?

Al-Turayki: I believe that anyone who grasps the situation in the Sudan knows that these charges do not hold water. The Sudanese suffer from a number of problems such as famine, shortages in food, lack of electricity, and so forth. It has become habitual that whenever a regime fails to attain the desires of the people, it finds it easy to blame foreign sides.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Bruno Kreisky in Spain

For Madrid Domestic and Hamburg DPA coverage of the visit to Spain by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, including his meeting with former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 20 December Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

MAURITANIA

Judicial Proceedings Against Citizens Stopped

LD192319 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The government decided today to terminate the cases raised against a considerable number of citizens. This was contained in a statement issued by the Ministry of the Interior and published this evening. The following is the text of the statement:

The Ministry of the Interior today issued a statement saying that in accordance with the statement of the Military Committee for National Salvation of 18 December, the government decided today to terminate the public cases raised against certain persons who have been subject to judicial prosecution.

That was the statement of the Ministry of the Interior. Here is a comment on the statement: The government has taken yet another step on the road to establishing justice and spreading an atmosphere of harmony in line with the guidelines of the Miltiary Committee for National Salvation in its statement of 16 December. This step provides for the termination of the cases raised against 133 persons who were the subject of judicial prosecution for reasons pertaining to political misdemeanors connected with their expression of opinions. This step comes in the wake of the lifting of all administrative measures taken in respect of other citizens of whom the minister of the interior spoke on 16 December.

Today's decision stems from a true desire to safeguard the basic freedoms of the citizens. It truly proves that the national leader was determined to follow the direction delineated on 12 December. In addition to safeguarding freedoms, the decision will help to save the name of our country abroad, after this name was disgraced by acts which did not respect human rights.

The decision, furthermore, affirms the will of the Military Committee for National Salvation to end arbitrary practices that increased with the encouragement of the deposed chairman. Henceforth, no one will suffer any more from arbitrary and unjust practices. All will be equal before the law under the aegis of a state governed by respect for order and security.

The Military Committee for National Salvation, out of loyalty to the pledges of the 10 July Movement and in line with the profound ambitions of the Mauritanian people, is determined now more than at any time to transform Mauritania into a state of justice whose citizens enjoy security under the umbrella of the public authority.

Only in this way does intercession become futile. This too is the way to bring an end to tribalism, which has appeared in recent years as a result of the absence of security and the degradation of the state, and the spread of nepotism.

Undoubtedly, the restoration of prestige to the state will bolster self-confidence and unleash the potentials the country needs, to face up to the hard conditions with courage. These conditions have escalated due to the chronic drought and the international economic crisis coupled with serious tensions on both the regional and international levels.

Undoubtedly, one of the numerous positive effects of this measure is that it will open new wide vistas which will enable all citizens to participate in the national construction operation.

AFP: Union Leader Released

AB200815 Paris AFP in English 0739 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Nouakchott, Dec 20 (AFP) — Mauritania's new military rulers released 132 political prisoners on Wednesday who had been jailed by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, himself overthrown and detained last week.

The releases, after those of 32 people on Monday, brought to 164 the number of political prisoners freed since Colonel Maaouyia Sid' Ahmed Ould Taya seized power last Wednesday, while President Haydala was at a French-African summit in Burundi. The deposed president returned to Mauritania the day after the coup and was immediately confined in a military camp.

Among those freed yesterday was Al-Khouri Ould H'Meitty, a leader of the sole labor union, the Union of Mauritanian Workers, who had been arrested in March. Most of those released had not been tried. They were accused of belonging to opposition groups characterized as Nasirite, Ba'thist, or pro-Libyan, and of plotting against the regime in March.

National Security Director, Press Attache Named

AB200840 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The chairmanship of the CMSN announces: Captain (Nujab Djibril Ahmadou) has been appointed director of national security, in accordance with a decree issued on 20 December 1984. Also, Brahim Moulad Allahi has been appointed press attache at the office of chairman of the CMSN and head of state, in accordance with a decree issued on 20 December 1984.

Communiques On Appointments of State Officials

AB191445 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] According to a communique of the CMSN office published yesterday, Major Sidi Mohamet Ould Sabah has been nominated by decree to the post of commander of the National Guard, effective 18 December 1984.

A second communique from the CMSN office published yesterday nominated the persons listed below to various posts also effective 18 December, 1984. They are:

Commissioner in Charge of Food Security
Dr Mohamed Ould Sidi Ahmed Ba
Deputy Permanent Undersecretary to the CMSN Chairman and Head of State
Mr Kane Boubakar (former permanent secretary to the Ministry of Finance and Commerce)

MOROCCO

MAP, XINHUA Sign News Exchange Agreement

LD201009 Rabat MAP in English 1208 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Rabat, Dec 19 (MAP) — The state-owned news agency MAGHREB ARAB PRESSE (MAP) and the Chinese news agency XINHUA concluded here Tuesday a cooperation agreement on the exchange of news. The agreement was signed by MAP director general, Mr Abdeljalil Fenjiro and visiting director general of XINHUA, Mr Mu Qing.

Mr Fenjiro expressed satisfaction for the conclusion of this agreement, which he said "materializes our common willingness to reinforce cooperation between the two agencies".

MAP and XINHUA, he stressed, can play "a determinant role" for a better cooperation between the Moroccan and Chinese peoples.

On his part, Mr. Mu Qing said this agreement "constitutes an important event which marks a new development in relations between the two countries".

Under this agreement, the two news agencies will exchange for free their national and international news. It also provides for a regular and free exchange of pictures and telephotos and the request to the other party of "complementary materials of news". The two agencies commit themselves, as far as possible, to assist the permanent correspondents and the journalists on a temporary mission in the one or the other country.

The agreement also provides for "the exchange of visits of journalists, expertise, and materials of documentation (written and photographical)".

SUDAN

Police, Prison, Wildlife Staff Reportedly Defect

EA191756 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Over 400 members of the police, prisons, and wildlife forces in Bor, the capital of Jonglei Province, defected and joined the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] on Sunday, 17 December.

The police forces, commanded by Colonel Makuet Deng Majuj, once the representative of the police forces in the First Peoples Regional Assembly in Juba, consists of 12 officers, 50 NCO's, and privates whose number is not yet known.

The forces of the former Department of Prisons are under the Command of Colonel Paul Kwal Ojuk, who was the head of the department in Bor. In addition to Colonel Kwal Ojuk, there are six officers, 20 NCO's and an unspecified number of privates.

The defectors, who met no resistance from the Army stationed in and around Bor town, were joined by some members of the Army and wildlife forces.

According to the radio SPLA reporter accompanying the SPLA forces in the area, the former officers and men from the government-organized forces in Bor were received with jubilation by the SPLA forces. The defections come at a time when the SPLA have stepped up their activities in War Zone Number One.

SOMALIA

'Very Large' Ethiopian Land, Air Attack Repulsed

EA201447 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] According to an SDR Defense Ministry statement issued today, the Mengistu regime and its allies launched a very large land and air attack at 0600 on Awdal, north-west region, Togdher, and along all the so-called border, comprising (Ghol Ujed), Togwajaleh, Gorayaxun, Balidid, and Buhodleh Districts of the SDR.

The provocative aggression on the SDR resulted in a crushing and humiliating defeat of the enemy, who suffered irrecoverable losses. Moreover, the enemy forces were repulsed and forced to retreat back to where they launched their attack.

Casualties resulting from the attack will be broadcast in our subsequent bulletins.

Briefs

President Receives Envoys— Somali Democratic Republic President Mohammad Siad Barre today received eight new ambassadors who presented their credentials to him at the Presidency. The ambassadors, who will be based in Mogadishu, are: Muhammad Abduh (Tudfaa) of the YAR; (Nezhad Hailam) of Turkey; Herbert Genscher of the GDR; Chon Myong-hui of the DPRK; Abdullah 'Ali (Rai) of the PDRY; Peter Bridges of the United States; Taha Abu al-Qasim of Sudan; and Bakhtiar Ali of Pakistan. [Summary][*Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 19 Dec 84 EA*]

UGANDA

Briefs

GDR Trade Protocol— Uganda and the GDR have signed a protocol on development of mutual exchange of goods between the two countries. Under the protocol, the GDR will undertake to deliver to Uganda about 2 million portable radio sets and both governments will also consider the possibility of the importation of TV sets to Uganda. Competent authorities of both governments will enter into negotiations early next year with a view to conclude a contract for the purchase of the portable radios. The protocol was signed in Kampala by the minister of information and broadcasting, Dr David Anyoti, on behalf of the Uganda Government, while the director general, African desk in the East German Ministry of Foreign Trade, Mr Wolfgang (Bruchner), signed on behalf of his country. Mr Wolfgang (Bruchner) is currently leading a five-man East German goodwill delegation to Uganda. The signing of this protocol is based on the mutual cooperation, goodwill, and solidarity that is now being enjoyed by the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Germany. [Text][*Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Dec 84 LD*]

CHAD

Dumas Cites Habre in Assassination of Gallopin

AB191810 Paris AFP in French 1603 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Paris, 19 Dec (AFP) — Without mentioning his name, French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas spoke of Chadian President Hissein Habre's responsibility for the death of Major Gallopin, who was assassinated under mysterious circumstances in Chad almost 10 years ago.

Answering a question put to him today at the National Assembly by General Marcel Bigeard, (UDF [Union for French Democracy]-liberal opposition), Mr Dumas, who paid tribute to French soldiers who died in various operations in Chad, added: "I refer (...) also to Maj Gallopin who was assassinated, as you know, by the ones, or the one, whose cause you seem ready to accept today."

Charged with the responsibility for negotiating the liberation of Francoise Claustre, the French ethnologist who was kidnapped at that time by Toubou rebels in the Tibesti, he was himself taken prisoner, then killed under mysterious conditions and, according to some witnesses, after having been tortured.

At the time, the Toubou rebels were fighting the Ndjamena government under the joint leadership of Hissein Habre and Goukouni Oueddei. Later, Goukouni Oueddei denied any responsibility for the act and accused Mr Habre, who became his opponent, of having assassinated the French officer.

'Calm' Reported in Southern Chad, FANT in Control

AB192118 Paris AFP in French 1447 GMT 19 Dec 84

[By AFP special correspondent Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Ndjamena, 19 Dec (AFP) — The situation has been calm for several weeks now in southern Chad, where severe clashes took place in September and October 1984 between the regular forces and some armed elements resident there. This was learned today from official sources in Ndjamena.

The Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] seem to be in control of the entire southern part of the country and are extending their patrols to the countryside in order to maintain order there; however, several areas are still occupied by hundreds of guerrillas and clashes can flare up "at any time," the same sources in the Chadian capital disclosed.

Several thousand refugees have fled southern Chad to seek refuge in neighboring countries (the CAR and Cameroon) due to insecurity. Most of them have lost their property and relatives because of extortion by the fighters. However, it was stressed in Ndjamena that economic activities are continuing almost normally.

"Cotonchad" hopes to harvest some 110,000 tons of cotton this year. Cotton is the main resource of the state. "We certainly harvested more than 150,000 tons in 1983-1984 (as the second largest African producer after Egypt), but in view of the civil war that has been prevailing over the past months in southern Chad, the level of 110,000 tons is perfectly honorable,$ the management of the national cotton company told AFP on Wednesday.

Since 1 November 1984, the date on which the cotton season was launched, "Cotonchad" "experienced only three incidents owing to insecurity in the south of the Chadian territory." In fact, guerrillas destroyed two of the company's trucks. The outcome of this attack was one dead and two wounded among the company's personnel, which employs some 5,000 persons during the "season of plenty."

In addition, "Esso-exploration Company," which is exclusively American, has picked up its oil prospecting program (which was disrupted in 1979) in southern Chad. Chad is alleged to have important crude oil beds at Moundou, Doba, and Sahr. According to official sources in Ndjamena, all industrial units in the country — most of which are concentrated in the south — are running normally. This is also the case of Logone Breweries, the cigarette manufacturing houses in Moundou, and of the sugar and textile companies in Sahr.

With the exception of some religious missions, suspected by the government of sometimes "helping the rebels," the expatriate population of the region — less than 1,000, most of whom are French nationals — has "never been disturbed" by the FANT or the guerrillas, many sources affirm in Ndjamena. It was disclosed that no special military plan has been established on the Chadian soil for any eventual evacuation of these foreign nationals "if they are really threatened."

However, there is, as everywhere else, a plan for the evacuation of this community "in case of emergency." This plan envisages an intervention by helicopter from the CAR, where some 1,500 French soldiers are presently stationed.

Bardai Denounces FAN 'Criminal Acts' in CAR

AB192110 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] According to our military correspondent, on 10 December 1984, Hissein Habre's men, armed to the teeth and led by the traitor Garba (Oumarou), surrounded (?farms) of the village of (Tabor) in CAR territory. They massacred three (?agricultural) officers, wounded several others, and stole 10 million CFA francs.

For this reason, the national liberation army commando, operating in the southern part of the country, strongly condemns these barbaric and criminal acts perpetrated with the aim of discrediting the revolutionary forces operating at the side of their brothers in the south.

BENIN

Four Arrested for Alleged Assassination Plot

AB191352 Lagos NAN in English 1110 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Benin, Dec 19 (NAN) — At least four persons, among them a female school teacher, have been arrested by the police in Benin over an alleged plot to assassinate some top officers in Bendel, the state's deputy commissioner of police, Mr Amos Dangana, said yesterday.

Mr Dangana told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Benin that the officers concerned were those who took part in the interception of some lorry-loads of contrabands passing through the state a few months ago. He said that three of the suspects were members of a smuggling syndicate while the female accomplice was a friend of the "principal plotter."

Mr Dangana did not disclose the names of the suspects, but said that they had earlier made corrupt overtures to the police which were rebuffed. He said that a document about the plot had been recovered by the police.

GAMBIA

Diplomatic Relations With Libya Resumed

NC192205 Paris AFP in English 2212 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Banjul, Dec. 19 (AFP) — Gambia and Libya today resumed diplomatic relations broken off by Gambia in 1980, when it accused Tripoli of training Gambian youths with the aim of overthrowing President Dawda Jawara.

A communique from Mr. Jawara's office in Banjul said the two countries had also decided to revive their joint cooperation commission that met for the last time in September 1979.

The commission is to meet in February in Tripoli to examine projects left over from five years ago, including an urban transport company that Gambia has been financing alone in the meantime.

Libyan Foreign Minister 'Ali al-Turayki visited Gambia on December 9 and said the regime of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi wanted to re-establish relations.

GHANA

Smuggling Offenses To Be Tried by Military

AB192232 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] With immediate effect, smuggling and allied offenses are now triable by a special military tribunal in all units of the Armed Forces. An official statement issued this evening said Provisional National Defense Council Law 19 has been amended to confer such jurisdiction on special military tribunals. Outstanding smuggling and allied cases, which are not yet pending before any court or public tribunal, are with immediate effect to be forwarded to the director of military operations of the force headquarters, Flagstaff House, in Accra for further action.

GUINEA

Ordinances on Appointments, Salary Hikes

AB191505 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Ordinances of the head of state issued on 19 December in Conakry — read by announcer]

[Text] Ordinance: The president of the republic, in view of the declaration of the military takeover on 3 April 1984, in view of the proclamation of the Second Republic and Act No 001/CMRN/84 of 5 April 1984 on the nomination of Cabinet members, orders:

Article 1 — The following have been appointed to the posts listed below as of 19 December 1984:

Ambassador Extraordinary of the Republic of Guinea to the Republic of Gabon: Captain Mohamed Lamine (Facine)
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea to the Helvetian Confederation [Switzerland] and Permanent Representative to the UN headquarters in Geneva: Captain Fode Momo Camara
Prefect of Kourouda: Captain Youssouf (Diallo)
Prefect of Kita: Captain Baourou Konde
Director General of International Cooperation: Mr Tiemoko Keita

The present ordinance, which takes effect from the date of its signing, shall be recorded and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

In Conakry, 19 December 1984

[Signed] Colonel Lansana Conte

Ordinance: The president of the republic, in view of the declaration of the effective military takeover on 3 April 1984, in view of the proclamation of the Second Republic and in view of Act No 001/CMRN/84 of 5 April 1984 on the nomination of cabinet members, orders:

Article 1 — Effective 1 January 1985, the Guinean Army ceases to belong to the public service.

Article 2 — The family allowances go from 94 silis to 150 silis per child per month. The legal number of children taken charge of passes from 6 to 10 up to the age of 17.

Article 3 — The total food allowance goes from 500 to 1,000 silis per month per man.

Article 4 — The present ordinance shall be recorded and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

In Conakry, 19 December 1984

[Signed] Colonel Lansana Conte

Ordinance: The president of the republic, in view of the declaration of the effective military takeover on 3 April 1984, in view of the proclamation of the Second Republic, in view of Act No 001/CMRN/84 of 5 April 1984 on the nomination of Cabinet members, orders:

Article 1 — Effective 1 January 1985, the salaries of workers on the A,B,C, and D salary scales have been increased by 10 percent and the salary of workers on the E,F,G scales increased by 15 percent.

Article 2 — The family allowances go from 94 silis to 150 silis per child per month. The limit on the number of children taken charge of goes from 6 to 10 up to the age of 17.

Article 3 — The present ordinance shall be recorded and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

In Conakry, 19 December 1984

[Signed] Col Lansana Conte, president of the Republic

New Foreign Minister Receives USSR Ambassador

AB192025 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Captain Facine Toure, member of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN] and minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation, received His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Guinea, today, Wednesday, 19 December 1984, at 1200.

His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev first presented his warm congratulations to Captain Facine Toure upon his appointment as minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and international cooperation. The USSR ambassador to Guinea seized the opportunity to refer to cooperation between our two countries, especially in the fields of agriculture, transportation, culture, and the training of cadres. His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev once more reasserted his desire and the sincere and loyal desire of the USSR Government to expand and strengthen the good, friendly relations existing between our two states.

The minister of state for foreign affairs thanked His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev for this friendly visit. Next he expressed satisfaction with the sincere, loyal, and growing aid the USSR has been giving to our country since the first hours of independence — this aid which was not judiciously used in the past to attain the objectives set at the time and which appears very important today since our liberated people are responsible for their destiny. According to Captain Facine Toure, the CMRN and the government of the Second Republic will spare no efforts to maintain and strengthen the best relations of friendship and cooperation with the USSR. Finally, the meeting between the Guinean foreign minister and His Excellency Vladimir Kitayev was on major current world problems.

LIBERIA

Students Union Calls for Repeal of Decree 88A

AB191009 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The Liberian National Students Union, LINSU, has called on the Government of Liberia to completely abolish Decree 88A so as to encourage the free participation of all in the current political process in Liberia. In a position statement issued yesterday by LINSU's secretariat, they called on the government to erase the fear generated by [words indistinct].

MALI

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — His Excellency Mohamed Toure, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mali to Guinea, on 3 December 1984 at 1000 presented his letters of credence to Colonel Lansana Conte, chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress and president of the republic. In another development, His Excellency Souleymane Sidibe, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mali to the GDR, on 14 December 1984, presented his letters of credence to His Excellency Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] and chairman of the State Council of the GDR. [Excerpt] [*Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 19 Dec 84 AB*]

NIGER

PRC Donates Medical Instruments, Drugs

AB192235 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] A ceremony at which drugs and medical instruments were officially handed over to the government took place at the Niamey hospital. These supplies, which were donated by the government and people of the PRC, is estimated at 80 million CFA francs.

NIGERIA

U.S., UK Urged Not To Withdraw From UNESCO

AB192140 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Nigeria has called on the United States and Britain to reconsider their decision to withdraw from the UNESCO. In a statement in Lagos today, the government expressed concern that the two foundation members have threatened to withdraw in total disregard of public opinion in their respective countries. It also expressed concern that Britain had also disregarded the view of other EEC countries, as well as representations from Commonwealth high commissioners in the United Kingdom, on the issue.

The government said that Nigeria regarded these moves by the U.S. and Britain as detrimental to the concept of the universality of membership of the states of UNESCO to make further efforts towards effecting constructive reforms in the organization whenever they are needed and to cooperate with each other towards the realization of the objectives of the United Nations. The Nigerian Government reaffirmed its commitment to UNESCO and pledged to continue to support Mr Amadou Makhtar M'bow, the organization's director general, in his commendable efforts to achieve the noble objectives of UNESCO.

Military Council To Discuss 1985 Budget

AB191435 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The meeting of the National Council of State has just ended at Dodan Barracks, Lagos. It considered the state's budget for next year. At the end of the meeting, a special session was also held between the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, and the governors of the 19 states.

A Radio Nigeria State House correspondent reports that the Supreme Military Council [SMC] is also scheduled to meet tomorrow at Dodan Barracks on the budget issue. The meeting of the SMC is expected to last 2 days.

SENEGAL

MP Oumar Thiam Arrested for Inciting Violence

AB191020 Paris AFP in English 0713 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Dakar, Dec 19 (AFP) — Senegalese MP and trade unionist Oumar Thiam was arrested on Monday charged with incitement to violence, informed sources said here Tuesday. The charge relates to clashes at the end of November at the Richard Toll Sugar Company, on the River Senegal, between different factions of the National Confederation of Workers (CNTS), which is affiliated to the ruling Socialist Party.

Mr Thiam's group called a strike in protest at management's new work programme, but a large body of the work force tried to resume work under police protection.

In ensuing clashes, three policemen were injured, two very seriously, and management staff were molested.

Mr Thiam was released after a first arrest, but on appeal from the Public Prosecutor's Office a Dakar court ruled there was a prima facie case to answer and ordered his re-arrest, the sources said.

The ruling meant he could not claim parliamentary immunity.

The CNTS, Senegal's main labour body, was shaken by serious incidents between rival groups in July, in which one person was killed and two wounded.

Mr Thiam belongs to the faction behind CNTS Secretary-General Madia Diop, who is also deputy speaker of the National Assembly.

Their main rival is a large group which includes former Secretary-General Babacar Diagne.

It has been talking for some months of setting up a new labour body which, like the CNTS, would be affiliated to the ruling party.

ANGOLA

Portuguese Leader Sends Message on Relations

MB192030 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] In a letter addressed to the representative of the 25th April Association in Angola, General Ramalho Eanes, president of the Portuguese Republic, has declared the necessity for all Portuguese citizens to clearly and unequivocally control [pautar] their relations with the People's Republic of Angola.

The Portuguese head of state, said that this is the basis of firm friendship between the countries, which share true values and national interests. In the letter sent to the 25 April Association in Angola, the Portuguese president said that the construction of true Portuguese-Angolan relations is the responsibility of every Portuguese citizen, of all Portuguese political forces, and of its organizations and institutions, in the interests of both peoples.

In the letter, President Ramalho Eanes expressed his deep concern over the worsening relations between Portugal and Angola, and he expressed the need for an urgent clarification of this relationship. The letter from the Portuguese president is in response to a message that was sent to him by the 25 April Association in which deep concern was expressed over the growing deterioration of the relations between the two states.

UNITA Spokesman Denies Savimbi Capture

LD192256 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] A South African radio broadcast, monitored in Maputo, today quoted a UNITA spokesman as denying that Jonas Savimbi had been captured by the Angolan Armed Forces. Jeremiah (Shitoleka) was quoted by the radio as saying that the Angolan authorities had put out the report of the UNITA leader's capture in their campaign to spread confusion. Rumors of Savimbi's capture circulated in Namibia and South Africa yesterday, Wednesday. But an Angolan official source told ANOP that it had no information about the matter.

Savimbi Capture 'KGB Lie'

MB200652 (Clandestine) KUP in Portuguese to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 20 Dec 84

["The Political Significance of the Lie About the Fate of UNITA's President"]

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 20 Dec (KUP) — The MPLA News Agency, ANGOP, has grossly lied about the whereabouts of UNITA's President Dr Jonas Malheiro Savimbi. The Angolan leader is still among the population inside Angola, directing the victorious resistance against the invading Russian-Cuban forces and their internal lackeys.

Why has so coarse a lie been made by the KGB in Moscow and in Havana? UNITA is winning the war. Luanda residents welcome and wholeheartedly support UNITA. Foreign countries are becoming increasingly convinced that the MPLA regime will be destroyed by UNITA and that the Angolan people are going to seize the reins of power under the leadership of President Dr Savimbi. This political reality is self-evident inside Angola as well as abroad.

While the lying KGB agents were manufacturing coarse lies, UNITA President Dr Savimbi yesterday afternoon addressed a large group of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola who had just concluded their technical and military training and were pledging their loyalty to the flag. These are among the thousands of soldiers who are ready to defend their threatened fatherland and are leaving to strangle Luanda in order to restore peace and unity among all Angolans.

The Angolan people must be assured that 1984 was an extremely positive year for our liberating struggle. 1985 is a year which will bring us more happy tidings, because the oppressed Angolan people are led by Dr Savimbi, a man who embodies the dignity and honor of Angolans.

6th Military Region Chief Cites FAPLA Successes

MB190856 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Major Mateus Miguel Angelo, Vietnam, the commander of troops stationed in the 6th military region, which comprises Cuando Cubango Province, assured our regional correspondent that the criminal actions carried out by the UNITA puppet gangs will continue to be drastically reduced by the incisive action of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA].

During this recent interview, in which he analyzed the progress of the region's military situation throughout 1984, Major Vietnam cited the successes obtained under the 6th region's command council in dismantling enemy pockets of resistance. He also said FAPLA has been frustating the puppets' criminal attempts to disrupt road traffic and hamper supply deliveries to the populations, as well as other social and economic activities.

The commander of the troops of the 6th region also said that the puppets only seldom directly confront the FAPLA. They prefer to carry out sabotage on economic activities and massacres on defenseless populations, a symptom of their ever-growing despair. Morale among the UNITA gangs is extremely low. The number of individuals who turn themselves in almost daily bear proof of this fact, Major Vietnam said.

He also pointed out that the most important action carried out by FAPLA this year was the August operation, which caused more than 300 losses in the enemy ranks and the capture of 16 bandits, including some officers. The operation led to the capture of various war materiel, namely G-3 and AK weapons, 60-mm mortars, and communication equipment.

Commentary Cites Failure of RSA-Backed Actions
MB170849 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Station commentary: "Opening Note"]

[Text] Exactly 1 year ago the South African Government, in an attempt to reduce the pressure exercized by the glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] on the counterrevolutionary UNITA gang, carried out an unparalleled major military operation in the People's Republic of Angola. Reinforced brigades crossed the border with Namibia and advanced more than 300 km toward our military units in Mulondo, Cahama, Cuvelai, and Caiundo.

Two paratrooper battalions and two artillery battalions were stationed on the border to support the military operation on Angolan soil. Thus began the biggest battle so far fought on Angolan territory, with 1 month of uninterrupted fighting. There were indiscriminate air bombings. Villages were razed, killing hundreds of civilians.

The racist South African Army operation ended in a failure. None of our positions were captured. In some areas the South African forces were forced to retreat in disarray. A large number of enemy aircraft were shot down, and numerous G-5 and G-6 howitzers, armored cars, assault cars, and other war equipment were seized. Many South African military personnel sustained casualties. In Cahama, the enemy lost more than 200 soldiers. For the first time, South Africa acknowledged the loss of five senior officers in fighting. The Angolan Armed Forces demonstrated heroism on the battlefronts. They were the pride of the African Continent and of the peoples struggling for freedom and peace.

After 1 month, on 16 February 1984, South Africa, acknowledging its inability to bring the Angolan nation to its knees through the force of arms, decided to resort to the path of negotiations. Then, in Lusaka, it agreed to withdraw its forces from the Angolan territory until March, specifically on 30 March, as the first step toward a negotiated settlement on Namibia and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78.

The time period for the withdrawal elapsed and the South African troops still continued to occupy parts of the Angolan national territory. After abandoning direct confrontation with our forces, South Africa continued to use UNITA as its fighting instrument. It began organizing the puppet gang's forces. It prepared its fighting manpower militarily and infiltrated them into Angola, armed to the teeth, to carry out spectacular operations by destroying bridges, factories, attacking mining centers, and kidnapping members of the public. These operations were aimed solely at scoring some propaganda points.

South Africa does not want to withdraw before leaving in Angola a force that is loyal to it. UNITA actions are portrayed in a very spectacular manner, but these actions are deeds which, in reality, have never taken place. At Cangamba, Mocamedes, and Luau our forces gave a prompt response which frustrated the South African intentions. UNITA's elite units suffered severe reverses. The enemy attempted a last ditch operation in the 8th military region. Like all other previous attempts, the enemy plans were scattered to the winds.

These attempts were followed by other psychological actions, such as sabotage of electricity supply pylons. This action only impresses people; it is of little military value. UNITA's flame began progressively dying, beginning right within the organization itself. This is mainly because of the nature of its violence. Its members began deserting en masse. Thus, South Africa once again returned to an old pretext: the presence in Angola of the Cuban internationalist troops, which have never crossed south of parallel 16 and have therefore never threatened Pretoria directly.

Confronted with this situation, the Angolan Government once again responded with seriousness and dignity. It presented a platform for negotiations on the southern African problem and the question of the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops was once again clearly explained. In order to have them withdrawn from Angola, it is imperative that the South African troops be withdrawn from our national territory, that Pretoria cease giving each and every kind of support to UNITA puppets, that all their Namibian bases be dismantled, that UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 be implemented, that UN forces be deployed in that illegally occupied territory, and that the South African military presence be reduced to a force of 1,500 infantrymen.

After the completion of these formalities, Cuba and Angola would gradually begin reducing the Cuban internationalist contingent on the basis of a formulated program. Then there will be prospects for peace. At this moment everything depends on the seriousness of the South African Government, which has been claiming that it is truly interested in a final solution of the problem.

Compared to what was happening a year ago, the situation has changed, although South African forces are still present in Angola. This change was undoubtedly brought about by the heroic action of our Armed Forces and our valorous combatants.

BOTSWANA

Opposition Leader Describes Party Outlook
MB200639 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The leader of the opposition Botswana Independence Party [BIP], Mr Motsamai Mpho, has said that it would be politically and morally dangerous for any poltical party to think that it should win elections by any means. Mr Mpho was addressing his party's executive meeting in Francistown last week. The meeting was a postmortem of the 8 September general election.

He pointed out that the pride of any elected political party should be the happiness found in the hearts of the electorate. The BIP leader explained that the policy of his party was to go on preaching its policies to everybody, including those who believe in it but are not members.

He remarked that those who are not joining his party were sitting on the fence waiting for the day when the party will be active enough to mobilize voters freely, without fear of intimidation. Mr Mpho said that lives of people in Botswana would continue to deteriorate until voters gave the BIP the mandate to form a government.

MADAGASCAR

Election To UN Security Council Discussed

MB191810 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Excerpt] At the UN General Assembly yesterday, Madagascar was elected a nonpermanent member of the UN Security Council, replacing Zimbabwe, whose 2-year term expires on 31 December 1984 [words indistinct]. It is worth noting that Madagascar did not submit its candidacy for this post, but was asked to and presented by the African group. At the least, Madagascar's election as a member of the security Council illustrates the words of His Excellency Mr (Loudevique Rochefort), the new ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, at the state palace of Ambohitsorohitra, during which he stressed the role played by Madagascar for the maintenance of peace and promotion of international cooperation.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Greets Dos Santos on Arrival in Maputo

MB201230 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the People's Republic of Angola, arrived in Maputo this afternoon. He was received at the airport by Marshal Samora Machel, his Mozambican counterpart.

Jose Eduardo dos Santos traveled to our country on a working and friendship visit to Mozambique. The visit by the Angolan leader to our country, which will end tomorrow, is made at the invitation of President Samora Machel and is in the framework of the regular contacts between the two statesmen. According to official Mozambican sources, the visit is aimed at strengthening the bilateral relations and adopting common stands on the present events in southern Africa.

Renamo Disruption of Relief Efforts Discussed

MB192019 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Mozambique is one of the four countries in Africa worst affected by drought. Tens of thousands of people have died from starvation and obviously the government is doing all it can to alleviate the situation. Irrigation schemes, large and small, are being developed. Extra support is being given to small-scale farmers. Foreign experts have been brought in to advise on farming methods to develop seed production, to carry out experiments with varieties of crops. It should be obvious that these schemes have the support of all Mozambicans.

Who would want to ignore the plight of starving fellow countrymen? It should be obvious but it isn't. There are forces at work trying to hinder the famine relief campaign. In some provinces of Mozambique, trucks carrying emergency food supplies or seeds are ambushed and burned. Local red cross workers are mutilated and killed. Food stores are attacked and destroyed. The campaign goes further than that. The people whose job is to grow the food the country needs so desperately are brutally murdered in cold blood.

In the last two weeks there have been two horrifying examples of this. Away up in the north, in Niassa Province, 13 people were murdered in ambush while they were on their way to work at the Unango state farm. Eight of them were German experts who had come to help Mozambique in its battle against underdevelopment.

Then, last Friday, there was another ambush on the road from Maputo to the Swazi border. Eleven people were shot and bayoneted in cold blood, eight of them agricultural workers. Two of them were foreigners who were lending their experience to Mozambique's development plan. The real death toll in such acts [words indistinct] cannot be measured. For every truckload of relief aid burned, how many people suffered through agony and starvation? For every agricultural worker murdered, how much less food is available to counteract the famine?

But the fundamental question to be answered is: Who is responsible for this callous barbarity? The group responsible dignifies itself in the name Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo]. This is not a term that is used in Mozambique, for obvious reasons. The armed bandits, as everyone calls them here, were a creation of illegally seized regime in Rhodesia and the racist minority in South Africa.

The word Mozambique must therefore be removed from their (?name). How about national? The leadership is in Lisbon, and many of them have Portuguese passports. Another word gone. Finally, resistance. Resistance to what? To attempts to save the lives of thousands of starving Mozambicans, to programs that aim to provide health and education for all, this is not resistance. It is destruction and sabotage with no regard for those who suffer as a result.

There can be no justification or any reason why [word indistinct] murderous terrorists who have created (?mass) wanton destruction. The Mozambican Government has made a remarkable offer to these bandits: amnesty and reintegration into civilized society if they abandon their life of crime. There can be few governments in the world who would make such a generous offer to people who [words indistinct] consideration.

The foreign interests who finance and support these [words indistinct] and blood-thirsty [words indistinct] their pawns, and tell them, now lay down arms and accept this offer of a new beginning. They will not have another chance.

Briefs

Finland Offers Aid — In response to the appeal for emergency aid made by our country to the international community, the government of Finland has decided to send a gift of 2.6 million Finnish markkas to Mozambique. This was announced on Friday by (Risto Mark Kolervo), new Finnish ambassador, when he presented his credentials, the newspaper *NOTICIAS* reports. The gift will be sent by the Finnish Red Cross to the UNICEF office in Mozambique, which will coordinate its distribution with the Mozambican authorities. [Text] [*Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 19 Dec 84 MB*]

NAMIBIA

Bail Conditions for Journalist Set by Court

MB191208 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 19 Dec 84 p2

[By Tony Weaver]

[Excerpt] Windhoek — Four journalists and a leading Windhoek businessman have been named as potential State witnesses in the hearing in terms of the Official Secrets and Post Office Acts against Ms Gwen Lister. Ms Lister, the BBC's South West African correspondent and a freelance journalist, appeared briefly in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court yesterday morning on charges under both Acts. No evidence was led and she was not asked to plead. Mr J F Boonzaaier postponed the hearing to January 31.

Tough new bail conditions were set after Ms Lister was released from police detention on Sunday night. The original bail conditions were that she pay r500 and surrender her passport. These have now been amended so that she has to report at the Windhoek Police Station every Wednesday and Sunday between 6 and 8 pm. In addition, she may not leave Windhoek district without the permission of the Divisional Commander of the South African Security Police, Colonel Sarel Strydom. She was also instructed by the court "not to interfere with any of the State witnesses."

They were named as being: Mr Peter Honey, Argus Foreign Service Bureau chief, Mr Brian Jones, a senior reporter on the Windhoek Advertiser and a stringer for REUTERS news agency, Ms Jean Sutherland a senior political writer on the *WINDHOEK ADVERTISER*, Mr Dirk Heinrich, a press photographer who represents both the *WINDHOEK ADVERTISER* and the *ALGEMEINE ZEITUNG*, and Mr Alan Libenberg, owner of Windhoek Business Machines, a shop which specialises in the supply of office equipment.

SOUTH AFRICA

Officials Hold Border Talks With Botswana

MB191640 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Officials from South Africa and Botswana held talks in Pretoria today on possible border adjustments between Botswana and the Caprivi region of South-West Africa. The border, which was determined in 1890 by Britain and Germany, is formed by three rivers. The talks follow, among others, an incident in October this year in which members of the Botswana Defense Force fired on a South African patrol boat near Sidulu Island on the Chobe River. The South African Department of Foreign Affairs declined to give further details of the talks.

Further Reaction To U.S. Policy Toward RSA

Disinvestment Cannot Force Capitulation

MB180725 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Station commentary: "Disinvestment — the Bottom Line"]

[Text] In the current argument over American disinvestment in South Africa most of those taking part are ignoring the essential bottom line in the issue. They are also demonstrating their incapacity for learning the lessons of history.

When the arms boycott was introduced, it was as a political instrument, the purpose of which was so to weaken this country that capitulation to international demands would surely follow. Those demands boiled down to a constitution prescription for South Africa of 1-man, 1-vote in a unitary state. The arms boycott failed for a perfectly simple reason: white South Africans refused to commit political suicide. The price that had to be paid in building up a local armament industry had to paid. There was simply no alternative.

These days a significant radical lobby in the United States and South Africa is campaigning for disinvestment, also to be used as a political instrument, once again to serve the same purpose. They are also acting on the false assumption that the price exacted by disinvestment would force eventual capitulation to their demands.

The campaigners either cannot or will not acknowledge the sociopolitical implications of the South African situation, that it is a conglomeration of national and ethnic minorities, whose most fundamental political impulse is resistance to domination by the others. Thus, the campaigners ignore the real challenge of the South African situation.

In an American television program at the weekend, President P.W. Botha defined it in these terms: I am prepared to grant political rights to others on condition that they acknowledge my political rights. Implicit in that statement is an admission that shortcomings remain and that tackling them must be a major focus of South Africa's future evolution.

The big debate in South Africa is not about whether all its peoples should or do enjoy full political rights; the answer is obvious. It is about the best means for achieving that goal and the rate of progress toward it. But the goal will not be achieved by denying the political imperatives imposed by South Africa's uniquely structured population of minorities. The demand for 1-man, 1-vote is tantamount to rejecting the legitimacy of the right of

national communities to maintain themselves politically and culturally. It seeks to entrench certain rights by destroying others.

In practice, therefore, it is a formula for endemic instability, with minority groups struggling unceasingly either to build or to break coalition governments in their efforts to promote the interests of their own constituents. To believe that through disinvestment the white nation may be compelled to accept political impotence and concomitant social and economic disintegration is utterly fatuous.

South Africa welcomes constructive criticism from abroad, criticism, that is, that takes cognizance of local realities and that is honestly and candidly concerned with promoting a dispensation that does justice to all. But the politicies of this country will not be influenced by punitive campaigns that are neither realistic in their premises nor honest in their intentions.

'Futility' of Reagan Criticism

MB191629 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 17 Dec 84 p 10

[Editorial: "Where is This Utopia?]

[Text]On the face of it, it would appear that the dialogue between South Africa and America about our internal policy could at best be a diplomatic play of words, an exercise in futility. Because, where the American President and his sharp denunciation of South Africa's domestic policy is concerned, it appears that in reality nothing happened, except that President Reagan merely turned up the volume in his rejection of our internal policy.

As for South Africa, we arrived at a reaffirmation of the standpoint that we will solve our own problems regardless of the methods being used abroad to force change on us.

Nevertheless, the dialogue could yet, indirectly, have its positive echoes. It could remind South Africans that we do not live on an island where we can do as we please without the outside world becoming aware of our actions. Those who say we can simply ignore the international standpoint are exhibiting a dangerous naivety.

From another angle, too, the dialogue can produce positive results. While America — as well as other powers — claims the right to deliver judgment on South Africa's domestic affairs, we can surely expect them to name examples of the systems of government on the African continent we should follow.

It is still fresh in our minds how British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher declared herself starry eyed at the prospects for the then Rhodesia after the Lancaster House talks. That is only one of the examples South Africa does not see itself following, although we have yet to hear a single word of sympathy from President Reagan over the pitiful misfortunes of that southern African state.

Netherlands Supports Peaceful Change, Despite ANC Aid

MB200559 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] The ambassador of the Netherlands in South Africa, Mr H.C.G. Carsten, says the Netherlands Government has always been in favor of peaceful change in South Africa. He said in a South African Broadcasting Corporation program that, although the Netherlands Government gave a quarter of a million rand to the ANC every year, the Netherlands parliament was convinced this money was only used for humanitarian purposes.

The Netherlands Government did not support the ANC's plans for violent change. Mr Carsten said the people of the Netherlands saw the Nkomati Accord and other diplomatic steps taken to seek reconciliation in southern Africa as moves in the right direction.

Referring to the break of a cultural accord between South Africa and the Netherlands, Mr Carsten said wideranging private contacts still existed between the two countries. The people of the Netherlands still experience a strong feeling of kinship with South Africans. He said the breakdown in understanding between the two countries was a result of the geographical distance separating them.

He described his task as ambassador in South Africa as one to try to improve relations between South Africa and the Netherlands and to stay in touch with those who supported peaceful change in South Africa.

Police Raid ITN Offices, Seize Videotapes

MB191307 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1304 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 19, SAPA — South African Security Police Armed with a search warrant today raided the Johannesburg offices of Independent Television News (ITN), a British news organization, and seized 33 video cassettes, ITN producer, Mr Keith Shaw, said. Police in Pretoria confirmed the raid.

Mr Shaw told SAPA, four plain-clothed police took away 33 cassettes that appeared to deal mainly with the United Democratic Front. He added, ITN in London planned to "strongly protest" against the raid both to the South African Embassy in London and the Ministry of Foreign affairs here.

A police spokesman told SAPA's Pretoria office "certain material" had been taken from the premises, but could not give any details.

Mr Shaw said the plain-clothed men gave him no reasons for the raid, saying simply the material could be used in criminal proceedings.

Last month, the Foreign Correspondents Association protested to the police over the seizure of video tape from a foreign film crew that had worked in black areas during the unrest in the Vaal Triangle. Mr Michael Hornsby, first vice president of the Foreign Correspondents Association, deplored the raid, describing it as "harassment."

He said "a couple of other foreign (news) teams" have had film — mostly shot during unrest in black areas — confiscated this year.

In the case of the West German Television organization, ARD, a complaint from the German Embassy had resulted in a reply from South Africa "regretting" the confiscation. The confiscated footage dealt with the funeral of an unrest victim, Mr Hornsby said. But the film was still to be used as evidence in an upcoming court case, Mr Hornsby said. He deplored what he described as the "new practice of using news media as state witnesses."

UDF Outlines Strategy, Affirms Nonviolence
MB191025 Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English
13 Dec 84 p 11

[Article: "UDF: Where to From Here?" by Terror Lekota, United Democratic Front publicity secretary]

[Text] Now that the white referendum is behind us, black local authorities have been implemented, and coloured and Indian delegates are sitting in Parliament, the big question is: What will happen to the UDF [United Democratic Front]?

Our first commitment was to resist the new dispensation. We organised — and suceeded — in getting the people to refuse to participate in the formalities which led to the implementation of the government's proposals for the various racial groups.

The percentage poll in the black local authorities elections in November 1983, the subsequent rejection of town councils and the resignations of councillors from these bodies, shows that these are dying an early but slow death.

Similarly, the August election results and the direct mass action in areas such as Lenasia showed that those who are in the three-chamber parliament — ostensibly on behalf of Indian and coloured communities — have no support.

Even within the white community there is growing disgruntlement with government policies. Resistance to militarisation and conscription is an indication that even in this quarter apartheid is increasingly being questioned.

But headstrong as they are, the Nats [National Party] are implementing their schemes. We, on the other hand, retain the mandate of the people to oppose those schemes and shall therefore be moving on to oppose the Nats and their minions. But what form, emphasis or direction will UDF activity assume?.

Broadly, the UDF remains committed to non-violent forms of resistance involving direct mass participation. However, the democratic nature of the front makes it imperative for it to draw its program from the majority views of its affiliates. This means that for the present intensive consultation with affiliates, progressive unions such as the Federation of SA Trade Unions and community organisations, will take precedent.

Within the UDF itself, the process of consultation will culminate in a national general council in the new year. Meanwhile the pending appeal of UDF presidents Albertina Sisulu and Oscar Mpetha — who are both out on R2,000 bail and R1 [as published] — the arrest and treason charges brought against Archie Gumede and other members of the national and regional creative councils, have opened yawning gaps in the structures of reorganising ourselves.

Fortunately, last year's campaigns brought forward an array of talented and determined young activists. With the support we command today, we have sufficient manpower resources to surmount this problem. We have mobilised the oppressed majority successfully — our task now is to organise them and shape the UDF into an even sharper instrument against apartheid.

ANC Pamphlets Urge Reconciliation, Talks
MB191053 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English
19 Dec 84 p 2

[By Chris Freimond, Political Correspondent]

[Text] The African National Congress has sent pamphlets posted in Harare to some white South Africans calling for reconciliation and the building of a new future together. The pamphlet seemed to be timed to coincide with last Sunday's Day of the Vow celebrations to which extensive reference was made.

It warned that unless South Africans could work together to build a South Africa based on democracy, justice and freedom, where people lived together in peace, violence would continue and more people would die. Although much of the pamphlet was a restatement of ANC policy, the authors seemed willing to bury past bitterness caused by apartheid for the sake of peace. Due to legal restrictions in South Africa it is not possible to quote most of the document.

The publication of the pamphlet comes at a time of growing awareness in some Nationalist circles of a need to talk to the ANC and other extraparliamentary opposition groups. Recently a leading Nationalist mouthpiece, BEELD, sent a senior journalist to Lusaka to interview ANC leaders and published two reports appraising the organisation. The newspaper called for talks between the government and the ANC.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda To Visit Nordic Countries 'Early' in 1985
MB191634 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] President Kaunda will pay a state visit to Nordic countries early next year. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced in a news release that the visit will be at the invitation of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland.

Mundia Comments on Anti-Apartheid Pressure

MB191919 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Nalumino Mundia, has said he is convinced that the current international pressure against apartheid will bring about Namibia's independence and the abolition of racism in South Africa if maintained. Mr Mundia said Zambia counts on China's continued support for the liberation movements in southern Africa to realize the total liberation of the continent from foreign rule. Speaking when he received the delegation of the Chinese National Congress, the prime minister said China has invested in Zambia more than any other country.

In reply, delegation leader, Huang Hua, said his visit to Zambia had deepened his delegation's understanding of Zambia in political, cultural, and economic terms, and added that the Sino-Zambian relations are marked by time-honored friendship.

Party Chief Reaffirms Support for PLO Cause

MB191848 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba has reiterated Zambia's continued support for the PLO in its efforts to create an independent state for Palestinians. Mr Mulemba said Zambia will never consider herself truly free until people all over the world are free from oppression.

Mr Mulemba was speaking at his office when he received a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, from the Palestinian leader's special envoy, (Al-Jafi Salman), on behalf of President Kaunda, who is on a 3-day state visit to Uganda. Mr Mulemba said Zambia is confident that Palestinians will one day regain their motherland, as they have rare courage and are resolutely determined to achieve this goal.

Party Official Urges Superpowers To Ease Tension

MB200724 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba has said Zambia and China should encourage the two world superpowers to understand each other and reduce world tension so that developing countries could carry on with their programs in a peaceful atmosphere. Speaking when he met a 12-man Chinese parliamentary delegation at Freedom House, Mr Mulemba said the solutions to the tense trouble spots in the world today lie with the United States and the Soviet Union.

The party chief told the delegation that Zambia, like any Third World country, would like to develop herself under an atmosphere of international peace. Mr Mulemba said issues like the problem of Namibian independence had already been solved, but what was remaining was the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. He said the disobedience of South Africa to this resolution was a sign of indiscipline and a creation of social [word indistinct].

On the local front, the party chief said Zambia was currently facing a serious economic problem. He told the Chinese delegation that the just-ended 19th United National Independence Party National Council had accepted President Kaunda's economic crusade for next year, which would try to solve the nation's economic problems. Mr Mulemba also talked on the need for educational development in any country as a major weapon for improving the people's way of living. He added that a father could give his child anything in the world, but if he failed to provide that child with education, then everything was a failure.

Editorial on RSA Reaction to Angolan Offer

MB191700 Lusaka TIMES of Zambia in English
8 Dec 84 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The Frontline heads of state meeting in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha to reassess their strategy on the Namibia independence dispute yesterday, could not have come at a more opportune time as the liberation war in Southern Africa has entered a final decisive stage.

The policy shift comes in the wake of reports that South Africa and Angola seem to have "struck up" a deal which could finally pave the way for Namibia's independence.

Reports reaching this newspaper from the United Nations in New York suggest that Angola appears to have signed her own version of the "Nkomati Accord" with South Africa by accepting certain proposals put forward by Pretoria with the full backing of the United States particularly on the phased withdrawal of both Cuban and South African troops from Angola.

But why the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola should be a subject of controversy is beyond understanding because the Cubans are not in Namibia. The position is: South African soldiers have invaded Southern Angola and must pull out because they are not supposed to be there in the first place.

We know it has always been part of South Africa's grand design to "talk" or even force Angola into kicking out SWAPO freedom fighters so that once the Cubans have left, Pretoria would find it easy to carry out its machinations.

Foreign Minister Roelof "Pik" Botha's letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar dated November 23, 1984 expressing his displeasure with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos underscores this assertion:

"Cuban withdrawal from Angola must be coordinated with the reduction of South African forces in South-West Africa/Namibia in accordance with annexure to the United Nations Security Council documents/123636 of 10 April 1978 i.e.:

— Six weeks after commencement of implementation, Cuban presence in Angola must be reduced to 12,000; nine weeks after commencement of implementation, Cuban presence must be

reduced to 8,000; twelve weeks after the commencement of implementation, Cuban presence must be reduced to zero (o) and;

"Cuban elements in Angola may not be replaced by any other foreign forces. The number of Soviet, East German and other communist bloc advisers must not be increased above the 1978 figures."

It is impossible to believe Angola, and least of all, Frontline states can accept such a deal.

ZIMBABWE

Appeal Made to Nonaligned States at Envoy Farewell

MB200718 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 20 Dec 84

[Text] Member states of the Nonaligned Movement have been called upon to consolidate their independence to guard against foreign intervention and interference in their internal affairs. The acting minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Simbarashe Mumbengegwe, made the call at a farewell reception for the outgoing Yugoslav ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade Djuro Vukolic, in Harare yesterday.

He said failure to guard against foreign intervention would render member states of the Nonaligned Movement victims of struggle for spheres of influence and domination. Comrade Mumbengegwe also thanked Yogoslavia for its positive contribution to the Nonaligned Movement efforts to establish a new international economic order.

In reply Comrade Vukolic expressed satisfaction at the fruitful cooperation between Zimbabwe and Yugoslavia. He added that Yugoslavia is exploring other areas of cooperation for the consolidation of the friendship which exists between the two countries.

ZBC Comments on ZANU-PF Gains, ZAPU Dissidence

MB191008 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 19 Dec 84

[Text] The government has made many strides in consolidating the hard-won independence since the victory of ZANU-PF over the forces of reaction as manifested by the result of the independence elections in 1980. The government has also created favorable conditions for the establishment of a socialist society. These statements were contained in last night's Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation commentary.

The commentary said that, as a result of the (?commitment) of its political and ideological line, ZANU-PF has been able to effectively rally behind the majority of the workers, peasants, and revolutionary intellectuals in executing the liberation struggle. (?Ever) since independence, ZANU-PF formed a government of national unity and invited ZAPU and representatives of the white community to participate in that government. However, the commentary noticed that ZAPU has embarked on (?assault) against the popular elected government by caching arms and subsequently involving itself in dissident activities.